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New Shevardnadze Post, Parliament Speaker Mean 'Presidental Rule'

The Georgian parliament elected President Eduard Shevardnadze head of state on 6 November and he subsequently announced he was assuming his duties as commander in chief. Parliament also elected Vakhtang Goguadze to the new position of speaker of parliament. According to ITAR-TASS, under the Law on State Authority Goguadze enjoys "practically all the rights of the head of state" except that he cannot dissolve parliament, can be dismissed from his post by two-thirds of the legislature, and cannot appoint or dismiss top state officials without parliament's consent. The news agency adds that "experts" believe that the establishment of this post and Shevardnadze's new position as head of state in effect introduces "presidential rule" in Georgia. Parliament also reelected Tengiz Sigua prime minister.

Yeltsin Expects 'Great Deal' From UK Visit; Will Run Russia From Abroad

Before departing on his visit to Great Britain, Russian President Yeltsin remarked to journalists that he is "expecting a great deal from it," according to Moscow Radio. "I consider my visit to England to be particularly important from the point of view of our entry into the EC," Yeltsin stated in a Budapest Radio interview. "We wish to coordinate in every respect our cooperation with England—from the point of view of economic, scientific, social, and humanitarian questions, cooperation between our various highest authorities." While meeting with British leaders, Yeltsin said he will raise "the issue of the protection of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltics," and insist the issue be discussed at the UN Security Council. He dismissed suggestions that his absence from Moscow will add to the political tension in the country by stressing he would continue to run Russia whether "on a plane, in a car, or ... in a room during talks. The contact will be immediate and unbreakable. No one will substitute for the president during this time."

Russian Presidential Council Sees Attacks by 'Revanchist Forces'

Russian President Boris Yeltsin chaired a meeting of the Presidential Consultative Council on 6 November, ITAR-TASS reports. While noting that "revanchist forces intend to try to take revenge... and destroy the government," Yeltsin maintained that "we have the will and strength... so as not to let the progress of the reforms be destroyed and not to let the opposition send the government into retirement—in any event, the main part of it, headed by Yegor Gaydar—and we will defend the political course of democratic Russia." Speaking at the meeting, Yeltsin again ruled out the possibility of the government's resignation, according to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. Elsewhere, the opposition group Civic Union approved an action program aimed at overcoming the country's economic crisis, ITAR-TASS reports. A Civic Union leader, in remarks to the Tokyo paper NIHON KEIZAI and subsequently reported by Radio Rossii, said that a joint Civic Union-government group to be created soon will discuss implementation of the program.

CIS Army Spokesman Hopes Arms Reductions Continue

LD0611175792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Nov 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We hope that newly elected U.S. President Bill Clinton will continue the nuclear arms reduction movement started by Bush; ideally, we hope to arrive at a stage where no one will possess nuclear weapons, Valeriy Manilov, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's press secretary, told a news conference at the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff Headquarters today. He has also expressed his displeasure with the Kyrgyz parliament for its failure to authorize the introduction of a Kyrgyz peacekeeping battalion into Tajikistan. He said that Russia is prepared to send its own armed units on peacekeeping missions in CIS hotspots, as well as abroad.

To the question of what the CIS Joint Armed Forces represent today, Manilov replied that so far they consist only of the strategic nuclear forces, which at present are under Russian jurisdiction—although there is an agreement that in critical situations they will be transferred to the command of Marshal Shaposhnikov, chief commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces—and the peacekeeping forces being set up today that are attached to the Commonwealth defense ministers but will be put under the operational command of the chief commander of the CIS Armed Forces.

Manilov also reported that the text of the Russian military oath is being prepared but that it will only be taken by the new conscripts. Those who have previously taken the oath of allegiance to the Soviet Union will not be required to take the new oath.

Denies Ukraine Wants To Sell Nuclear Arms

OW0611175592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskobionikov, Boris Grishchenko, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Valeriy Manilov, press secretary of the Supreme Command of the United Armed Forces of the CIS, denies reports that Ukraine is insisting on the sale of nuclear weapons deployed on its territory instead of their transfer to Russia. This contradicts international agreements, CIS agreements, and the official position of Ukraine itself, said Manilov at a Friday [6 November] press conference in Moscow. "Only Russia has the legal right to control the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union," contends Manilov.

The press secretary emphasized that there were no nuclear weapons aboard the ships of the Black Sea Fleet, and that it would be excluded from the United Armed Forces so that Russia and Ukraine could determine its fate during the transitional period.

Manilov declared himself against Russian officers having to repeat their oath of loyalty to Russia. This, in his opinion, would hamper the process of integration of the CIS countries.

According to Manilov, today, when one of the main tasks of the Commonwealth is the establishment of collective military security, it is important to concentrate on the creation of a mechanism for mutual action in defense of the CIS. Such a mechanism, he said, must also be created for CIS peacekeeping forces so that they will not only exist on paper, but actually turn out to be effective in resolving ethnic conflicts.

This also touches upon the possibility of creating a system of collective security for the Baltic states, since even now, installations of the former USSR are located there. According to Marshal Shaposhnikov, this question will be discussed at the CIS Supreme Command in the event that there are signs of interest on the part of the Baltic States themselves. Furthermore, said Manilov, if the Baltic states did not insist on forcing the question of the withdrawal of Russian forces, it would be possible to help Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia establish their own armed forces, as well as to guarantee them military equipment.

No 'Substantial' Progress Toward Tajik Solution in Alma-Ata

MK0611122992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Nov 92 pp 1, 3

[Igor Rotar report under the "Central Asia" rubric: "There Will Be a State Council in Tajikistan. Question of Sending In Peacekeeping Forces Has Still Not Been Resolved"]

[Text] A meeting of Central Asian heads of state (excluding Turkmenistan) and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian president's personal representative, was held 5 November in Alma-Ata. The Central Asian leaders and the Russian minister met to discuss steps to overcome the Tajik crisis. The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, who had flown from Moscow together with acting Tajik President Akbarsho Iskandarov, gave each of the presidents a letter signed by Boris Yeltsin who, in the opinion of circles close to the Russian Foreign Ministry leadership, was also the behind-the-scenes architect of the Alma-Ata summit. The Russian president believes that the prevailing situation urgently necessitates joint peacekeeping actions involving Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Central Asian states. "Right now we need actions to encourage a cease-fire as soon as possible. It may make sense to return to the question of sending peacekeeping forces to Tajikistan. Without this it will be impossible to start dialogue between the leaders of the various groupings or establish a coalition government of national reconciliation... We also need to take urgent steps to give Tajikistan humanitarian aid in terms of food, medicines, and petroleum products. Pooled efforts are also required to ensure the safe evacuation of people who are forced to flee the country."

After a debate lasting almost three hours, the leaders of the Central Asian and Kazakhstan region worked out their view of the Tajik problem. The joint declaration they adopted reads as follows: "The situation in Tajikistan could get completely out of control, the conflagration of fratricidal war threatens the security and stability of the Central Asian region and adjoining states... The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan advocated that, by agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, units of the subdivisions of the 201st Division of the Russian Armed Forces stationed on Tajik territory help protect the peaceful population and vitally important installations and restore peace and law and order in Tajikistan. At the same time the division will under no circumstances get involved in the political struggle or take the side of any of the warring groupings. In their opinion, these units of the subdivision should become the basis for collective peacekeeping forces involving other CIS countries in line with an appeal by the Republic of Tajikistan."

In the interests of achieving political stability in Tajikistan, the participants at the meeting supported Akbarsho Iskandarov's proposal to immediately establish a Republic of Tajikistan State Council in which all the country's regions and political forces would be represented, with subsequent ratification of its powers at a session of the Supreme Soviet to be convened no later than 20 November 1992.

The participants at the meeting deemed it necessary "to adopt additional joint measures to strengthen the protection of the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. A decision has been made to dispatch representatives of the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia to Dushanbe to coordinate and distribute the humanitarian aid arriving in Tajikistan."

Despite the resolute tone of the statement, it is hardly possible to say that any substantial progress was made in resolving the Tajik crisis. The issue of sending in peacekeeping forces is still unresolved. The establishment of a State Council will not on its own be enough to solve the problems of a country torn apart by regional contradictions. It is doubtful whether the Kulyab and Leninabad formations will recognize the State Council, in which members of the opposition will play a major role. Overthrown President Rakhman Nabiyev is still active and has stated on several occasions that he was forced to step down "by the use of brute force." The remark that Nursultan Nazarbayev made in a brief interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent—"Nabiyev no longer has any influence in the country and should refrain from making remarks of this sort"—does not alter the essence of the problem. The Kulyab formations acting as "defenders of the constitutional system" could use the offended president as a kind of rallying point.

The shakiness of the peacekeeping efforts aimed at resolving the Tajik crisis is one of the possible explanations for the "no-show" at the Alma-Ata meeting by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov. Admittedly, Nursultan Nazarbayev did suggest another explanation for his colleague's absence: "Niyazov did not come because he was not invited by acting Tajik President Akbarsho Iskandarov." But when requested by the Kazakh leader to confirm this version, A. Iskandarov said nothing. It is known for certain that the participants at the meeting were expecting the arrival of the Turkmen leader. In the corridors they were saying that Saparmurad Niyazov flew as far as Tashkent, but then changed his mind and went home again.

Asian Republics, Russia Adopt Statement

LD0611141192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0307 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Joint statement of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Russian Federation, on the situation in the Republic of Tajikistan]

[Text] Expressing extreme concern at the crisis situation existing in Tajikistan, and taking into consideration the repeated appeals of A.I. Iskandarov, acting president and

chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, who was present at the meeting, the participants at a meeting in Alma-Ata declare that the people of Tajikistan is on the brink of a national catastrophe. The very existence of Tajik statehood is under threat. The continuing armed conflict is in effect growing into a full-scale civil war. Blood is being shed and the number of casualties is increasing daily. The flow of refugees is growing. Tens of thousands of citizens of various nationalities, for whom Tajikistan is their native home, are leaving in fear for their lives.

The economy is paralyzed. The system of providing vital supplies to the population is violated and there is a real danger of famine and mass epidemics.

It should be noted that the situation in Tajikistan could become uncontrollable. The flames of fratricidal war are threatening the security and stability of the Central Asian region and the states bordering it.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia cannot remain indifferent to the fate of Tajikistan, with which our peoples are linked by historical ties of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance. They affirm their readiness to afford the Tajik people all the necessary support with the aim of restoring peace and law and order in their land. Peacemaking and mediation efforts will continue and humanitarian, economic, and other assistance to Tajikistan will be increased.

The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan express the desire that, by agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, units and subunits of the 201st Division of the Russian Armed Forces stationed on Tajik territory should provide assistance in order to defend the civilan population and vitally important sites, and to restore peace, law, and order in Tajikistan, on the understanding that the division will under no circumstances take part in the political struggle and take sides with any of the opposing groups. In their view, these units and subunits should be the basis for collective peace-keeping forces, with the participation in them of other CIS countries, in accordance with the appeal of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In the interests of achieving political stability in Tajikistan, the participants in the meeting support the proposal of A.I.Iskandarov on the urgent creation of a State Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, in which all regions and political forces of the country would be represented, with the subsequent confirmation of its powers and composition at a session of the Supreme Soviet to be convened not later than 20 November this year.

The participants in the meeting deem it necessary to take additional joint measures to strengthen the borders of Tajikistan with Afghanistan.

The decision was made to send representatives of the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia to Dushanbe to coordinate the distribution of humanitarian aid arriving in Tajikistan.

The participants in the meeting appeal to other member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the collective actions to stabilize the situation in the Republic of Tajikistan. They will also welcome assistance toward these efforts on the part of other members of the world community, the United Nations, and the CSCE.

Appealing to the people of Tajikistan at this difficult time, the participants in the meeting express confidence that the people will find the strength within themselves to turn over this tragic page in their history as quickly as possible, and to restore peace and tranquillity in the ancient Tajik land.

[Signed] Alma Ata, 4 November.

Dniester, Estonia Mark October Anniversary

LD0711204592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The anniversary of the October revolution was marked by gatherings in Tiraspol, Bendery, and many areas on the eastern bank of the Dniester, as well as in places where the Gagauz and Bulgarian communities are concentrated. Meetings were also held between veterans and schoolchildren.

A mass meeting for the right to live in decent conditions was held on a square in the Estonian town of Sillamae. Speakers noted that people came to attend this meeting because the economic, political, and social situation in northeastern Estonia, where the Russian-speaking population is mostly concentrated, has removed the ground from under their feet and made them fearful for the future. Many members of the Union of Russian Citizens and Veterans laid flowers at the Lenin memorial.

Baykonur Chief on Future of Space Center

LD0611091292

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1415 GMT on 5 November broadcasts a 35-minute Baykonur Television feature entitled "Kosmopolis—Edition 6" presented by journalist Svetlana Fedorova, which examines the state of deterioration Baykonur is reaching through lack of funding, the mothballing of equipment, and the demoralization of staff who feel they no longer know for whom or for what they are working, with views stating that urgent action is necessary to protect the space sector.

One of those interviewed is A.A. Shumilin, chief of the Baykonur cosmodrome, who says: "What's necessary at the end of the day is for just two large republics at least—Russia and Kazakhstan—to arrive at a position on how things should be at the cosmodrome. And, having taken part in various conferences, talks, and exchanges of opinions, we have finally understood that

what is needed is a special agreement on Baykonur which would open up a mechanism of cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan, and that other of our Commonwealth states—such as Ukraine, Belarus, and Uzbekistan—should join this agreement, because there is enormous space potential there too.

"At present we are part of a unit of the Russian armed forces, its strategic part, which is part of the Russian armed forces and, in line with the agreements, we are part of the unified armed forces of the CIS. And, as regards the city, I love it as I did before, the way it was then and now, because it's impossible otherwise. One has to make sure that everyone loves it, and that nobody leaves, well, for a long time at least. That's it."

ITAR-TASS Press Review for 7 Nov

LD0711073392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0616 GMT 7 Nov 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 7 TASS—Today's newspapers publish articles devoted to the 75th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. "I believe November 7 will always be celebrated in this country," Vitaliy Marsov writes in the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. Some people will mark this day as a day of the great revolution, while others will remember it as a day of the great counter revolution which had interrupted for seventy long years the beginning of the democratisation of the country.

Commenting on the anniversary, the TRUD newspaper writes that taking into account the current critical situation in the country it is necessary to focus on finding ways out of the deadlock. "What should be done in order to make the way up less painful—that is the main problem which should be considered both by those who had rejected revolutionary-destructive ideas of the October revolution and those who still believe in them," the newspaper writes.

"We were all born in October"—this is an old formula which remains true to the present day," the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper writes. [quotation marks as received] According to the newspaper it is a good sign that the holiday remains in our calendar. "One should not be a convinced advocate of communist ideology to rejoice at the fact... for all of us this is the main holiday of the state in which we have lived most of our life," the newspaper said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with the former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. "Today Russia is passing through a crisis. If the present leadership manages to take over the inititaive by its new policies and a new coalition team, which will ensure a new policy and consensus, we shall go ahead with the process of transformations, preserve our federation, preserve everything," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev said that the "stubborness" of the Russian leadership prevents the president from assuming his constructive role as the highest authority uniting all reformatory forces, including conservative ones, which are coming out for reforms and transformations, Gorbachev said.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper carries an interview with the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. "Peace-keeping troops should be introduced into those areas where such need arises," Grachev said. "Interior troops should neutralize irreconcilable forces so as not to repeat the tragedy of October 31 on the territory of the Russian state. I have arrived in Vladikavkaz to strictly fulfil the decree of the Russian president," Grachev said.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newsaper carries an interview with Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin. "The forecast of crime rate until 1995 is not reassuring, and it's too early yet to speak of the stabilisation of the criminal situation," Yerin said adding that to combat organised crime rapid deployment units are being formed and officers who resign from the Army are enlisted on a contractual basis.

The TRUD newspaper carries an interview with the chief of the central archive of the Ministry of Security of Russia, Aleksandr Zyubchenko, entitled "Lubyanka Archives: There Will Be No Sensation".

"Alas, most of our archives have neither computers, nor Xerox and photocopying machines," Zyubchenko said adding that there were no "blank spots" as far as more important problems were concerned.

Reports Highlight Yeltsin's Visit to Great Britain

Yeltsin Previews Talks, Departs

LD0911073192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin met journalists at the airport before his departure for Britain and stated that it is time to end talk about deferring the Congress [of People's Deputies], inasmuch as that is unrealistic. In my opinion, Yeltsin said, the Congress will begin on time. Touching on the pre-Congress unity and cohesion of the democratic forces, Boris Yeltsin said: I believe that we need to achieve accord between all political forces in Russia so as not to engage in a free-for-all in front of the whole world.

Concerning his forthcoming visit, the president emphasized that this is the first visit by the head of the Russian state to Britain in over three centuries of relations between Russia and Britain. I am expecting a great deal from it, Boris Yeltsin remarked. He stated that, in talks with the British authorities, he definitely will raise the issue of the protection of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltics. I will insist that this problem be discussed at the UN Security Council, Yeltsin emphasized. He also stated that the situation on Russia's borders is under control.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 0722 GMT on 9 November adds: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin today left on an official visit to London. At the airport he was seen off by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting government chairman Yegor Gaydar, and presidential secretary of state Gennadiy Burbulis."]

Meets UK's Rifkind, Queen's Representative

LD0911110692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1055 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] London November 9 TASS—At the Heathrow Airport of London, decked with the national flags of Britain and Russia, Boris Yeltsin and his wife were welcomed by Viscount Long, special representative of the Queen and Lord of the Retinue, British Secretary for Defence Malcolm Rifkind and other officials. The welcoming party included British Ambassador to Russia Brian Fall and Russian Ambassador to Britain Boris Pankin.

Yeltsin and his wife went down from the ramp and walked, accompanied by the officials, by the red carpet along the ceremonial line-up of officers of the Royal Air Force to the hall for honoured guests. A motorcade left the airport and steered for the Hyde Park Hotel, the residence of the Russian president.

Remarks on Arrival

LD0911122492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] London November 9 TASS—Responding to questions of journalists at the Heathrow Airport, Yeltsin said: "Russia is being accused of holding a too pro-American stand. Nevertheless, one should not forget that we live on the European continent, and for this reason Europe has always been closer to us."

Yeltsin recalled that it is a planned visit, which was included in the schedule long ago, following the invitation of Prime Minister John Major. The date of the visit was coordinated long ago, so there is no emergency about it. Yeltsin said that they would discuss political problems during the visit and sign a treaty on principles of bilateral relations. They also intend to discuss the problem of ethnic minorities, so that Russia will be able to act jointly with Britain, as well as many other issues, including the economic ones, of course. The sides are going to discuss major joint projects, including the Udokan project, the Urengoy gas and chemical complex, and so on.

Views Udokan Copper Project

LD0811214192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Nov 92

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Text] Relations with Great Britain are presently at the forefront of Russia's western foreign policy. President Yeltsin begins a visit to London tomorrow. The main subject of the upcoming talks is how to revive economic ties. The British Government is prepared to offer Moscow major credits, but Russian Federation industrial circles are voicing concern as to whether these credits will be predicated on granting preference to British companies in a number of large projects, in particular the exploitation of the Udokan copper deposits in Chita Oblast. Our program last week dealt with this. What is the Russian Federation president's position on this issue?

[Begin Yeltsin recording] That's a very interesting question. I think that for several decades the former Soviet Union—and Russia too, by inertia—conducted its foreign economic activity in a seriously distorted way, to its own disadvantage. When we took up credits, for example so-called tied credits, we were using those credits to purchase equipment in the country granting those credits; and we were creating jobs in that country, not here at home. We reaped the benefits 15 years later, to the tune of 10-15 percent. Paradoxical it may be, but that's how it was.

The good thing about the Udokan project is that we will insist on untied credits. We will invest this money, this credit, in our own industry, in our own jobs. The Udokan project alone will create an additional 250,000

jobs—250,000! Just imagine! Udokan, after all, yields 15 percent of the world's extraction of copper. It's a unique program! Yes, indisputably, I anticipate we will have discussions on this subject there, given that the British side will have an interest in us providing jobs for their industry. However, we have started a huge conversion program that is creating a lot of redundancies; when unemployment starts, we will have to address that. [end recording]

Official Sees 'New Stage' in Relations

LD0611172992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow November 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Britain will signify the beginning of a new stage in relations between Russia and Britain, according to Lev Parshin, deputy head of the European Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"We are leaving behind decades of mutual estrangement and suspicion," Lev Parshin told a briefing at the ministry press centre on Friday.

"Before us is a period of mutual respect, goodwill and concern for each other's interests," Parshin said.

Speaking about spheres of mutual concern in relations between Russia and Britain, Parshin named "constructive cooperation between the two countries" in regard to various international problems.

"If previously any new trouble spot in the world automatically resulted in a clash of interests between Russia and other world powers, now there is not a single international problem which we and Britain would not be seeking to settle together," Parshin said.

He welcomed Britain's support for reforms in Russia and its transfer to democracy and a free market economy.

Parshin also announced some details of Yeltsin's visit to Britain scheduled for November 9 and 10. He said the president will be accompanied by Sergey Filatov, first deputy Russian parliamentary chairman, Yuriy Spiridonov, speaker of parliament of the Republic of Komi, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Vice-Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven and Russian Ambassador to Britain Boris Pankin.

Political Observers See 'History-Making Event'

LD0911063892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0624 GMT 9 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Pakhomov]

[Text] London November 9 TASS—President Yeltsin arrives in the British capital for an official visit today. During the two-day visit he will be received by Queen Elizabeth II, will hold talks with Prime Minister John Major, meet prominent representatives of European and British business circles and address a joint session of the two chambers of the British Parliament. The programme of the visit includes the discussion of a wide range of bilateral and international political and economic problems, as well as issues dealing with ensuring world and European security. The two sides are expected to sign a treaty on principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as a number of agreements on cooperation in various spheres.

Political observers are already saying that the visit will be a history-making event. It is regarded here as the beginning of a new stage in British-Russian relations, as a vitally important step in their development on the basis of principles of mutual understanding, trust and partnership. British official circles stress London's readiness to give up tension, suspicion and mutual estrangement, which were typical of the "cold war" times. According to British officials, the treaty, which will be signed during the visit, has no precedent in relations between Britain and the former USSR. It can be compared only with the 1766 Russian-British treaty. The significance, attached by Britain to the visit, is stressed by the fact that for the first time ever the leader of an East European country will be received at the Buckingham Palace and address the Parliament.

British officials do not conceal their concern over the instability and serious economic and political difficulties Russia and other former Union republics are living through. It is reported that for this reason John Major would like to receive from Yeltsin detailed first-hand information about the situation in Russia.

The discussion of the role of Britain and the European Community, of which it is now a chairperson, and the role of business circles in promoting the Russian economic reform and the transition to a market-oriented economy will feature prominently at the talks. On the eve of the visit a government spokesman stressed Britain's support for the implementation of the reform and democratic transformations in Russia. The press reports that a possibility of making investments in the Russian economy and creating joint enterprises is being actively discussed in London. However, according to SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, Britain is still lagging far behind other countries, say, Germany, in this respect.

Touching upon international affairs, newspapers write that Britain hopes that the new relations with Russia will result in a closer cooperation at the U.N. Security Council, where Moscow's assistance is necessary for pursuing a coordinated policy with regard to Yugoslavia, the Middle East, Iraq and matters dealing with the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

So, the first official visit of the Russian president to Britain begins today. British officials express confidence that it will elevate British-Russian relations to a new, higher level.

UK's Major on Visit, Nuclear Test Ban

PM0611161592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Nov 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Interview with British Prime Minister John Major by Aleksandr Krivopalov in London; date not given: "J. Major: 'I Impatiently Await the Meetings With Russia's President.' Britain's Prime Minister Replies to IZVESTIYA Correspondent Aleksandr Krivopalov's Questions"]

[Text] [Krivopalov] The United Kingdom awaits Russian President B. Yeltsin's arrival on an official visit. Mr. Prime Minister, how do you assess the nature and present level of British-Russian cooperation?

[Major] We appraise relations between Britain and Russia as very good. The first treaty between the two countries since 1766 will be signed during this visit. This is an historic event by any standard: Such ties would have been inconceivable in the past. Their strengthening is served not least by the United Nations, where both countries bear special responsibility as permanent members of the Security Council. Russia is making a positive and constructive contribution to its activity. It is especially valuable.

There has never been a better time for the development of personal and business contacts between citizens of both states. The recent reciprocal lifting of restrictions on the movement of UK and Russian citizens proves how far we have advanced from the dark suspicions of the "cold war" period.

[Krivopalov] Your government rendered very important assistance to renewed Russia in the Security Council, the EC, the IMF, and at consultations within the "G-7" framework. What more could the United Kingdom do for the success of democratic reforms in our country and the transition to a market economy?

[Major] Our approach is built on the principles of partnership and mutual interest. The development of your country's colossal human and natural resources will give a highly positive impetus not just to Britain or to West Europe, but also to the entire world economy. Of course, neither the United Kingdom nor any other country would take on the solution of Russia's problems. Our efforts are aimed at assisting and strengthening the reform measures being implemented by the Russian Government.

Much was said during the "cold war" about Russia's being unable to ever implement the principles of market economy. I admire President Yeltsin's boldness and support his program of reforms. It offers the Russian people an opportunity to meet history's new challenge and, in time, to benefit from the advantages of private property. Bearing in mind the legacy of communist rule, such a transformation cannot be easy.

The United Kingdom will continue to play its role in helping this process. What I mean is Britain's contribution to the sizeable assistance being rendered to Russia by the "G-7," the EC program, and our own "Know-How" fund. I am glad that the governments of Britain and Russia successfully worked together to achieve your country's admission to the IMF. This is a major step forward. And finally, the recent visit to Russia by the minister of trade and industry demonstrated our interest in the investment of private capital from the United Kingdom in your economy. This is the best form of help.

[Krivopalov] Heated debates are now under way in West Europe about the Maastricht Treaty and the EC's new image. What do you think of Russia's place in European structures, both today and tomorrow?

[Major] There is no easy answer to this question. Russia is a vast country, its territory and interests extend far beyond the boundaries of what is conventionally understood by "Europe." There can be no talk at all of replacing the "iron curtain" by any barriers hindering Russia's participation in European processes.

On the contrary. We want your country to develop trade relations with the EC to the maximum. It is very important to work together on the evolution of existing European structures. We took advantage of our function as chairman of the Community to promote a new agreement on partnership and cooperation between the EC and Russia, and I expect to hear President Yeltsin's views on this. As regards security questions, we would like to pursue consultations within the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and to find spheres for practical collaboration like, for example, the use of peacemaking forces. Briefly speaking, the new models of partnership and cooperation are already manifesting themselves in a most productive fashion.

[Krivopalov] Mr. Major, how would you describe your personal contacts with B. Yeltsin?

[Major] I think the president would agree that we have developed good relations. We are consulting on a whole series of important questions. I impatiently await the meetings with him on 9 November—I love discussions with people who openly state their views.

[Krivopalov] What is official London's position regarding the moratorium on [nuclear] tests, which has also been declared by members of the world's "nuclear club" like the United States, France, and Russia?

[Major] The nuclear deterrent forces must not be a factor of intimidation. In our view, this presupposes the implementation of a minimum test program. We wish to act in the direction of a coordinated, verifiable, and universal test ban on a sensible and permanent basis. Many people cannot imagine that the British program is in fact just the necessary minimum: Less than one test a year, which is noticeably less than the other nuclear powers' programs.

Meanwhile, we have no intention of carrying new tests for as long as the moratorium declared by the United States is in effect.

[Krivopalov] The weekly FINANSOVYYE ISVESTIYA, brainchild of the FINANCIAL TIMES and IZVESTIYA, was launched recently. Mr. Prime Minister, what would you wish this newcomer?

[Major] The free press in Russia is one of the most important recent gains. Politicians all over the world do not always like what they read in the newspapers. But the messenger who brings bad news is not killed in democratic conditions. The free press, both in the United Kingdom and in Russia, enables society to find out what is happening and, on the basis of this information, to draw its conclusions on questions of interest to it. Cooperation between the FINANCIAL TIMES and IZVESTIYA will make its contribution to the public debates now under way in your country. This is an initiative that is beneficial for all. We need such private projects.

Yeltsin Pledges Continued Reform, Proposes Clinton Summit

PM0611121492 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Nov 92 p 15

[John Kempfner report: "Yeltsin Calls for Clinton Summit and N-Test Ban"]

[Text] Moscow—President Yeltsin, while vowing to defend his reforms to the last, yesterday proposed a new foreign policy agenda to the American President-elect, Mr. Bill Clinton.

Addressing British journalists in the Kremlin ahead of his visit to London on Monday, Mr. Yeltsin pledged to stand behind the acting Prime Minister, Mr. Yegor Gaydar, and his radical government.

He said Russia was beginning to establish a foreign policy that would set it apart morally from that of the former Soviet Union.

It was announced that Mr. Yeltsin had proposed a summit with Mr. Clinton. Mr. Georgiy Mamedov, Deputy Foreign Minister, said Mr. Yeltsin had telephoned Mr. Bush to express gratitude for helping to put relations between Moscow and Washington on a more friendly footing.

Mr. Yeltsin was due to speak to Mr. Clinton yesterday but had already outlined his plans for going further, Mr. Mamedov said. These included deeper arms cuts, a permanent nuclear test ban, greater economic investment and political co-operation.

By the time Mr. Clinton takes office in January, Mr. Yeltsin will have undergone the most serious challenge to his reform, with the Congress of Peoples Deputies due to meet in December.

In a confident display yesterday aimed at calming western concerns over the future of reform, Mr. Yeltsin dismissed suggestions that his absence from Moscow next week at such a crucial time would add to the dangers. He would contine to run Russia "from my plane, car or the negotiating table".

Russia, Mr. Yeltsin said, would not meekly follow the West and would put its own imprint on international relations.

It will be Mr. Yeltsin's first official visit to Britain, although he did stop over in London last January on his way to the United Nations in New York.

He recalled that Mr. Major was the first foreign leader to telephone him during the 1991 coup, a fact he said had "played a significant role" in subsequent relations.

Asked if he was contemplating a state of emergency and suspending the constitution and parliament, as some groups have advocated, Mr. Yeltsin replied ambiguously: "The policy of reform will without doubt be saved.

"The measures that I will have to take will be dictated by the level of pressure applied by the opposition in their attempt to destroy reform."

Mr. Yeltsin said that during his meeting on Tuesday with Civic Union, the main political bloc challenging Mr. Gaydar's reforms, he had been persuaded that "three or four refinements or correctives" to policy were possible, but the thrust of it would continue.

Civic Union, he said, had broken a promise not to reveal the names of ministers it wanted replaced, and had displayed an immoderate appetite" for power. [no open quotation marks as received]

"The number of new deputy prime ministers and ministers they proposed is so high that it would practically ruin the Yeltsin-Gaydar team," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The conservative-dominated Congress is expected to refuse to renew the special powers granted to Mr. Yeltsin a year ago and which run out on Dec 1, and to follow that up with a vote of no-confidence in the government.

Liberals fear Mr. Yeltsin will agree to several changes in an attempt to appease the hardliners.

One source close to the government said the tactics of Civic Union had succeeded in undermining ministers' self-confidence and was part of a broader challenge by many former communists to regain their jobs.

Mr. Yeltsin said his monthly trips to the provinces and the 2,500 letters from the public he received on average each day showed him that, unlike what many members of parliament say, the public was rallying around reform.

Last week's decision to suspend troop withdrawals from the Baltic states had been taken out of concern for the Russian minorities there and not the result of hardline pressure.

He invited the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian leaders to talks.

Yeltsin Sends Letter on Baltics to UN Secretary General

LD0611222992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2132 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations November 7 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has informed United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Russian relations with the Baltic states.

A letter expressing concern over the state of Russian relations with these states was passed over to the U.N. head today by Russian permanent representative to the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov.

Noting the Russian Federation has played the decisive role in achieving independence by the Baltic states, the Russian president stressed the Russian Federation will continue working to develop bilateral relations of genuine good-neighbourliness, equal cooperation and mutual trust.

While respecting principles of the international law and the will expressed by Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the Russian leadership clearly confirms its intention to withdraw troops from their territories.

"Since the very beginning of negotiations on the issue we have more than once expressed our essential stand, under which the troops withdrawal in a short period can be done after reaching agreements on a number of issues closely related to the issue," noted the president.

"First of all, this is the ensuring of normal troops' functioning in the period of their withdrawal and guarantees of social-legal protection and personal rights of servicemen, military pensioners and members of their families".

The president believes the vitally-important issues have not been solved, which greatly complicates the position of Russian servicemen and members of their families. Under these conditions Russia had to temporarily suspend the troops withdrawal from Baltics territory, noted Boris Yeltsin.

The withdrawal will be resumed and completed in a short but real period of time after signing inter-state agreements between the Russian Federation and the Latvian Republic, the Republic of Lithuania and the Estonian Republic. There should be no doubts as regards the Russian intention to sign the agreements as soon as possible.

At the same time, further development of Russian relations with the Baltic states will much depend on the position of the Russian- speaking population there.

Now the discriminative policy and practice of the Latvian and Estonian authorities as regards this group of the population, in some cases established in these countries' legislation, runs counter to the basic principles of the United Nations organization, violates the declaration of human rights, the international covenant on civil and political rights, the convention concerning employment policy, the convention concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, the declaration on social progress and development, says the letter.

Russia believes this situation shall be considered by the United Nations. The formation of conditions for crying discrimination of a considerable part of state population and creation of new hotbeds of tension and conflict situations cannot be allowed in Europe.

The Russian president requested the U.N. secretary-general to take all measures within the U.N., the Security Council and the General Assembly framework to urge the Baltic states honestly and fully fulfill the obligations they have taken on bilateral and international agreements in the sphere of observation of human rights and freedoms.

The president proposed to put the issue of large-scale violation of human rights and freedoms in these countries on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.

Yeltsin To Give Europe 'First Priority'

OW0611190492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskobionikov, Boris Grishchenko, Igor Porshnev and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in the Kremlin yesterday, November 5, in anticipation of his visit to London and Budapest, the Russian President formulated the priorities of the Russian foreign policy. In underlining the significance of Russia's relations with the U.S., Boris Yeltsin said that Russia still will be giving first priority to the continent "where we live" - Europe.

Boris Yeltsin contended that the Russian President's visits to Italy, Germany, and France have contributed to integrating Russia into the European Community. The future talks with the Hungarian and British leaders are pursuing the same goal. Conditions have become ripe for it, he said.

The President also revealed that a "hot line" will soon be established between the Kremlin and 10 Downing Street.

In commenting on his own critical remarks several days ago at a session of the RF [Russian Federation] MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] Collegium, the President said that the "West-oriented tenor" of the Russian

foreign ministry, he referred to at the conference, comes as a result of the priorities the Russian diplomats are yet to take on.

"The Russian MFA has overcome this problem," Mr. Yeltsin said, "so now it's time for strengthening our ties with other regions and groups of countries". He referred, for example, to the coming top level visits to China and India currently prepared by the Russian MFA.

Boris Yeltsin characterized his visit to Hungary as Russia's "overdue reaction" to the expediency of establishing entirely new kind of relations with East European countries. "We were too busy with other problems and had no time to address these issues," he explained.

The Russian diplomatic corps, the President said, has come to grips with a great number of complicated problems. In addressing them, however, the Russian MFA should not duplicate anyone, for example, U.S., British or German diplomatic efforts, he said. "I believe that the activities of the Russian MFA should be characterized by openness and candor," he emphasized.

Yeltsin Views Baltics, Hungary, UK Visits, Internal Affairs

LD0611224992 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1730 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by Gabor Izbeki at the Kremlin in Moscow on 5 November; Yeltsin speaks in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Izbeki] In the wake of the system change under way in both countries, Russia's relations with the eastern European states, the former allies of the USSR, have significantly declined. Mr. President, what chances are there, in your view, for the reconstruction of cooperation, with particular reference to Hungarian-Russian relations?

[Yeltsin] I have already said this. Unfortunately, we are behind in righting our relations with the eastern European countries. Hungary was the first with which we signed a comprehensive agreement on 3 December, when the USSR still existed. Later, Russia also signed a basic agreement with Hungary. So of the countries of the former socialist camp, this was the first one.

The start with Hungary was very positive. However, during the recent visit of the Hungarian president and my meeting with the Hungarian prime minister in New York, we agreed that serious issues are still outstanding and await negotiation and a resolution on the state level.

My invitation is of long standing, but at that time we did not agree on its date. However, now we have decided that after my visit to Great Britain, I will arrive in Budapest directly from London where I will stay for one day.

We have prepared several documents for this visit, as well as an economic agreement which will be signed on this occasion. I have already said before that we have made the 1956 archival documents available.

We have a serious problem—the issue of debts. This pertains to Russia's debts to Hungary connected with current payments, and Hungary's debts to the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the problems of military real estate remain, which came about in connection with the withdrawal of our troops. In connection with all these questions, we have to sign very precisely worded documents, and we have to carry out the obligations related to this. Thus, I have a very tight program for my visit, and I think it will be useful.

[Izbeki] Boris Nikolayevich, I believe there is still incomplete agreement about whether the debate on accounting which developed in the wake of the troop withdrawals can be resolved reassuringly on the basis of the so-called zero option. In your view, is it certain that the agreement pertaining to this will be signed now in Budapest?

[Yeltsin] As regards the zero option, I trust that we will manage to sign the agreement in Budapest. I personally am hopeful about this, though I do not exclude that certain arguments will crop up in connection with this, but in my opinion no question can be settled with a simple yes or no. So, this will also be preceeded by debate, which will be followed by agreement. I think this zero option is the most logical solution, thus we will accept it.

As far as 7 November is concerned, as on every holiday, as on several other holidays, on this day as well I will work from 0800 until 2200.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, your visit to Budapest comes a good two weeks after the anniversary of the 1956 revolution. Do you wish to make some kind of official statement on this occasion?

[Yeltsin] We have already made statements of this kind. There is no point in repeating them. There will be two events in this connection. We will hand over to you all the archive material we have preserved pertaining to 1956. This is the first thing. The second is that I will visit three cemeteries from 1956, on the one hand where Russians are buried, and on the other, where Imre Nagy is buried. I think that this will adequately express our feelings.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, politicians and journalists have for years held the opinion that Hungary could be a bridge between the Western countries and Russia. Do you agree with this opinion, and how do you see this? What can Hungary as a bridge give to Russia in concrete terms?

[Yeltsin] Look, I see the birth of a very interesting proposal here, particularly in the field of agriculture, in which Hungary is strong. For example, the West can give us credits through Hungary, and Hungary will effect sales in Russia in accordance with this. In this way, it ensures

a certain profit for itself, but, more important, it gives us the benefit of its technological experience, in the sphere of processing agricultural products and other areas. I am of the opinion that this is a very promising direction, and I would like to hold talks about this in Budapest. This is only one of the directions, naturally.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, Russia and Hungary are two European countries which have many of their nationals abroad. That is, through historical events, Hungarians and Russians have been left in foreign countries, and it is true in the case of both states that these national minorities are in a disadvantageous situation. In your view, Mr. President, is cooperation feasible between Russia and Hungary in the protection of national minorities, and what form of cooperation in this regard will you propose if the question arises in Budapest?

[Yeltsin] This is an interesting question which we already touched upon with the Hungarian president during his very brief private visit to Moscow. However, you know that as yet there has been no resolution in the United Nations on the protection of national minorities. For this reason, we agreed that we would coordinate our efforts, and we will put a proposal to the UN Security Council and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that the United Nations should accept a document relating to the protection of national minorites. This would to a great extent ease the national conflicts which have erupted in numerous parts of the world today.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, from the point of view of discrimination against Russians, the Baltic situation is the most painful area for you. Many people say that you stopped the troop withdrawal from there to make the Baltic leaders see reason. Is this really what is behind the decision, or is there some other consideration? In general, how do you see the future of relations between Russia and the Baltic states?

[Yeltsin] I do not say that there is any question of exerting pressure by either side. I have declared several times that there is no way I want to turn to force. I think that people have always been able to talk to me. For just this reason, I say that the exertion of pressure of any kind is completely in vain. We will naturally withdraw our troops from the Baltic states, but we have to determine the schedule for the troop withdrawals and sign the agreement related to this. We are ready for this. In our opinion this question has to be resolved in a civilized manner. We have already signed such an agreement with Lithuania, and recently an expert group has been set up with the task of preparing the withdrawal schedule for the troops stationed in Latvia and Estonia. I approached the three Baltic countries' leaders today in a letter, proposing that we should meet at the negotiating table to discuss the question of troop withdrawals.

Although we do not in any event wish to link the question of the legal protection of the national minorities with the issue of the troop withdrawal, we still have to speak out for the protection of the rights of the Russian-speaking population living in the Baltic states, for clear discrimination is taking place in the Baltics against the Russian-speaking population. This is impermissible in any state of the world at the end of the 20th century. Naturally we cannot tolerate that they ignore the rights of the Russian-speaking population, our fellow countrymen, in countries neighboring us. We have also turned to the United Nations in connection with this, to Butros-Ghali personally,, and we asked that the organization should examine the grievances which have hit the Russian-speaking population in the Baltics. At the same time, I emphasize, we are prepared to sign agreements fixing the schedule for the withdrawal of the troops.

I would like to remind you of how much help we gave the Baltic states in former years, for them to be able to split away from the USSR and achieve their freedom. When we signed the first agreements, the Baltic countries promised that they would build apartment blocks and [word indistinct] social establishments, or rather that they would help to build these, for the soldiers. As I mentioned, we have just signed the agreement on the withdrawal of troops stationed in Lithuania, but I feel that the Russian [as heard] Ministry of Defense has been a little overhasty. They are loading the wagons, equipment, military engineering apparatus, they are loading up the soldiers and then off they go. What is not known is where. To the fields, the snowy fields? Is this permissible? Naturally the soldiers immediately reacted to the withdrawal, for this kind of measure also means an infringement of the rights of citizens. These people become completely defenseless socially. We cannot stand by and watch with indifference as they simply throw the soldiers out into the plains, to live in tents. It is just for this reason that I signed my suspension order on the troop withdrawal matters. In no event, however, should this be evaluated as a political decision. It is simply a matter of having to create the necessary reception environment for the troops withdrawing from the Baltics, the new accommodation. The time for the conclusion of the troop withdrawals has not changed— the middle of 1993.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, with this question I think we have gone over to Russian internal politics. The whole world is anxiously watching whether you will be able to save the reforms. The dissatisfaction of ordinary people, and criticism of you, are louder and louder. Do you consider that you have done enough up to now, for ordinary people to understand and accept the reforms, the difficulties which are not short term? If not, what do you wish to do in this connection?

[Yeltsin] Thank you very much for putting just this question. I consider it a very good question. You know, when they ask me where I get my information from, usually I say that I receive at least 12 dossiers of documents a day. This also means 12 different sources of information at the same time. It all has to be read. Naturally there are many things overlapping in these reports. For me, it is very interesting to note how various

organizations evaluate a given event. I think, however, that the most significant source of information is ensured by maintaining contacts with people. This is the most important source. First of all this means 2,500 letters daily. Naturally I cannot read every one, only a fraction. There is a working group, however, the task of which is to read and process the letters sent to me.

The other source of information, which is much more direct even than correspondence, is personal contacts. Every month I go to some area of Russia. I arrived back just this Saturday from my visit to Astrakhan. Meetings which are not preplanned are very important, where people are admitted not on the basis of some list, but you simply go along the street, the crowd begins to gather around you and when around 500 people gather, then you stop and start to talk to them. I think that this is nothing new for you journalists, you have seen enough of this. These conversations are usually quite stormy and I feel that at these meetings, I can really find out the truth— can find out what people think about the reforms, the president, the difficulties, the worries, the future.

I have to say that the Russian people understand the reforms more and more, and this is the most important thing. Naturally I cannot claim that everyone knows what reform means in Russia today, but I can state that this understanding is growing. Apart from this, I must also note that despite the difficulties experienced, on the occasion of one-to-one conversations people encourage me to stick by the reforms, and say that they will assure me of their support. They encourage me not to give ground either to the revanchists or the oppositionists. There is no force in Russia which could divert us from the path commenced. Of course there are many shrill voices, but they are without strength. The true strength is the people.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, the other day you met with the leaders of perhaps the most influential economic-political group, the so- called Civic Union, who proposed to you an almost completely new government program and government list. At least this is what the press writes. How did these talks end, and does the demand of the Civic Union, in essence the interest group of the big industrial and military industry leaders, mean a distancing from the reforms?

[Yeltsin] Yes, I met the representatives of the Civic Union yesterday. The 10-strong delegation put forward the proposals of the organization in connection with economic reform, and made observations on the program for averting a crisis. I had earlier read the report which Volskiy, the organization's chairman, put at my disposal. During the meeting I received several documents. As I observe, there are no fundamental differences between the short term government program aiming to deepen the reforms and deal with the economic crisis, and the ideas worked out by the organization. At the most it is a question of three or four alterations [pontositas], or one or two minor corrections. Naturally we will take note of these proposals when working out the government program, but I state clearly that the government will not accept a different program.

As regards the personnel composition of the government, well yes. We had earlier agreed with the organization that they would not mention names. Despite this, they still informed the press of the names of the government members whom they would like removed. I told them that their appetite is too great, and that we are in no event prepared to carry out the excessive government reshuffle proposed by them. To this they replied that they continue to support Prime Minister Gaydar's remaining in office. But the implementation of the changes in deputy prime minister and ministers they propose would lead to the complete collapse of the Yeltsin-Gaydar team. For just this reason, the president of Russia is not prepared to carry out a government change of such measure.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, do you consider it conceivable that extreme measures should be introduced in the interests of preserving the reforms and stability, something which was proposed the other day, for example, by former Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov? If yes, then in your opinion what would these emergency measures be like?

[Yeltsin] We will without doubt save the policy of reforms. The level of measures will be determined by the level of pressure from the opposition directed at wrecking the reforms. You see how cleverly I answered this question.

[Izbeki] Mr. President, apart from our country you will now visit Great Britain too, and furthermore you will spend two days there. In general, my feeling is that you do not travel much. What are the priorities of Russian foreign politics? My impression is that first and foremost it is the Americans who are important for Russia.

[Yeltsin] If we are speaking about the foreign policy orientation of Russia and the priorities, however much they reproach us with only conducting political relations and so on with the United States, the truth is that for us it is the area of the world in which we live which has priority; that is, Europe. In our foreign policy relations, Europe will also be our priority in the future. This is why we visited Germany, France, Italy. Our official state visit to England and to Hungary is now coming up.

[Izbeki] Boris Nikolayevich, you will be arriving in Budapest from Great Britain, from London. So I think your mood will be determined by the experiences there. What do England, Anglo-Russian relations mean for you? How important is this from the point of view of the future development of Russia?

[Yeltsin] The process has started whereby Russia is joining Europe, it is taking the step toward the EC, and talks about Russia's admission to the Council of Europe have started. Mrs. Lalumiere, the general secretary of the Council of Europe, was in Russia in recent days, and we

held talks with her too, as to what the possible date for Russia's joining the Council of Europe would be. I consider my visit to England to be particularly important from the point of view of our entry to the EC. We wish to coordinate in every respect our cooperation with England—from the point of view of economic, scientific, social, and humanitarian questions, cooperation between our various highest authorities, including the Energy Affairs Ministries, the Defense Ministries, the Internal Affairs Ministries; from the point of view of cooperation between the two intelligence services; from the point of view of creating a direct cable telephone link with the prime minister of Great Britain. Now, when the president of Russia is visiting Great Britain for the first time, we will sign a friendship treaty for the first time between Russia and Great Britain. We will also sign several concrete agreements during the course of the visit. I have met Mr. Major several times, and I must emphasize that in the most critical days for Russia, last August, on 19 August, Mr. Major was the first of all the heads of government to phone me, and assure me of his support for democracy in Russia. All this naturally had an important role.

He visited Moscow last September, where we held talks. Following my visit to the Security Council I spent a brief time in London. However, even during that time, I managed to conduct several important discussions. We also met in Munich and in Helsinki, so we know each other well. I think that our relations can now go onto the track of real partner and allied contacts.

[Izbeki] Boris Nikolayevich, I think I am not exaggerating if I describe the Russian internal political situation as tense because of the debate between the parliament and the government and the nationality conflicts. In this situation, you have only allowed yourself a few days out. Will you hand over the responsibility of governing for the period of your absence, and if so, to whom?

[[Yeltsin] I will direct Russia from there. There will be continual contact, whether I am traveling on a plane, in a car, or whether I am in a room during talks. The contact will be immediate and unbreakable. No one will substitute for the president during this time.

Yeltsin's Itinerary for 10-11 Nov Hungary Visit

LD0811182192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 8 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow November 8 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will arrive in Budapest on November 10 for an official visit at the invitation of Hungarian President Arpad Goencz who conveyed this invitation when he was visiting in Moscow in late October.

Hungary was the first among European countries to sign in December 1991, even before the Soviet Union's dissolution, a full-scale treaty with Russia on the fundamental principles of goodneighbourliness and cooperation.

The official programme of the visit will begin on November 11 with the ceremony of welcome of the Russian president in Lajos Kossuth Square. Then Yeltsin will have a conversation with Arpad Goncz in the parliament building. The conversation will be followed by the negotiations with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

The negotiations will be concluded in the signing of a package of documents. An agreement on economic cooperation is expected to be signed. According to information from diplomatic sources, the parties will probably agree to a "zero version" in settling matters connected with the property of Soviet troops withdrawn from Hungary. A declaration on cooperation in matters of the protection of ethnic minorities and an agreement on cooperation in the area of archives will also be signed. Incidentally, during the visit Yeltsin intends to hand over to the Hungarian side archive materials related to the 1956 events. A protocol on cooperation in the restitution of cultural values displaced during the Second World War has been prepared for the signing.

There has been not much time for the preparation of the visit, so some details of the programme are yet unclear. But the Russian president will probably meet the president of the National Assembly and representatives of a number of political parties and will speak in parliament.

Yeltsin intends to place wreaths to monuments to Soviet soldiers in the Freedom Square, to Hungarian heroes in the Heroes Square, to victims of the revolution and liberation struggle of 1956. The Russian president also intends to make what he described as an "eloquent enough gesture"—to visit Imre Nagy's tomb.

In the evening of October 11 Yeltsin will conclude his visit to Hungary and will return to Moscow.

Kozyrev Suggests 'New Points of Emphasis' in U.S. Ties

OW0611180192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskobionikov, Boris Grishchenko, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I don't expect Russia's relations with the administration of Bill Clinton to be any more difficult than are its relations with the administration of George Bush. We know his team very well, as we do his attitudes and those of the Democratic Party in general," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an exclusive interview with the DP [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent accompanying him in his tour of the Central Asian republics of the CIS.

No serious problems should arise between Moscow and Washington during the new administration's first few weeks in power, Kozyrev said. He does believe, however, that there may be "some new points of emphasis" in Russian-U.S. relations. "We now need a new strategy for partnership," the minister said, explaining that he meant not only building a relationship with the new administration but solving such "painful problems" as clarifying Russia's status in the world market. "This is somewhat unusual and unexpected but we have to start doing that," he said.

He expects the Clinton administration to put more emphasis on human rights issues, making them the top priority in its foreign policy. Russia, he said, takes a "positive" attitude to this since it is itself concerned about human rights infringements in other republics of the former Soviet Union. "The more emphasis the Americans put on this the closer their policy will be to ours," Kozyrev said.

Ministry Predicts Uninterrupted U.S. Ties

LD0711165592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that the current transition of power in the United States from one administration to another will not be accompanied by a pause in Russian-American affairs, as has previously been the case. This was pointed out by Deputy Foreign Ministers Mamedov and Berdennikov, talking to our correspondents. One of them covers American policy lines and the other [Berdennikov] covers arms control issues.

[Begin recording] [Mamedov] There will not be a pause. George Bush has already said that he will maintain maximum efficiency during this transitional period for his administration. We know what George Bush wants, we are continuing negotiations with the American Administration, and we are also hoping that we will find out the main points of Bill Clinton's approach to the development of cooperation with Russia. So a special kind of three-way partnership could be set up right away, and we would support that.

[Berdennikov] We are doing all we can to ensure that a treaty on the basis of the framework agreement signed in the summer of this year by the presidents of Russia and the United States will be prepared for the next summit. A very intensive dialogue is taking place. We have agreed with the Americans that we will not be giving any leaks on the main points of the treaty. All I can tell you is that there are no political disagreements between the two sides, but as with any agreement on arms control the new treaty will contain a range of technical details, and it is these details which are being discussed. In particular we are trying to ensure that our economic, and I emphasize economic interests, meaning reducing the expenses involved in the activities which are the subject of the treaty, will be (?protected). All the same, I emphasize that these issues are not of a political nature. [end recording]

Bessmertnykh Forecasts Clinton's Attitude to Russia

LD0811220292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Commentary by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, chairman of the Foreign Policy Association]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] As regards relations with Russia, I believe President-elect Clinton will take a more clear-cut view of the need for democratic reform in Russia than his predecessor did. He will follow closely our developments in this area, and possibly link the success of this reform in our country with some of his own individual actions related to assistance and aid to us.

ITAR-TASS Head on Tasks Facing Clinton

SK0811030392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Nov 92 p 1

["Moscow Vantage Point" column by Vitaly Ignatenko, director general of the ITAR-TASS News Agency of Russia: "Promises and Expectations"]

[Text] Moscow—It does not happen often. George Bush was the fourth U.S. President elected this century who failed to be reelected for a second term.

Bill Clinton is a new, little known political figure, but the yearning for change that swept him to victory has been visible for quite some time. It has long been felt that Americans were ready for changes. It was said many times that the Democrats would surely win if they nominated a good candidate. This was felt very strongly at the end of Ronald Reagan's term in office, but Michael Dukakis, Democratic candidate at that time, was no match for George Bush. This time, the engineering of Clinton's campaign was so skillful and, at the same time, so well balanced that he managed to rally around Democratic candidates not only his own supporters but also those among Republican voters who were craving for change. The elections once again confirmed that the United States is ready for change and its leadership must be responsive to this need. Clinton's victory signifies that the generation of World War II is being replaced by the "Vietnam generation." The changing of the guard coincides with the change of generations and the emergence of a new America.

The president-elect faces an uphill struggle in fulfilling his domestic political program. Clinton's landslide victory does not mean that a notable shift to the left has occurred in the United States. Clinton won because he succeeded in convincing voters that he would create jobs, lower unemployment and reduce the federal deficit

while preserving conservative principles and values. The voters cast their ballots in favor of placing American domestic problems first.

Although political observers say the new administration will focus on domestic problems, Clinton will also have to make hard decisions in foreign policy.

Clinton is expected to reduce American commitments in Western Europe and cut the number of American troops deployed there down to 75,000. This means that the United States will not oppose an independent European defense and security policy and that its relations with Europe will logically evolve into relations between equal partners. Along with this, stiffer competition is likely to develop in the economic field, especially in trading.

The Cold War ended when Bush was in office, but hyperinflation and inter-ethnic conflicts in Russia, and Central European fears that the conflict in former Yugoslavia may spread to neighboring countries will probably make Europe a foreign policy priority of President Clinton. Clinton's adviser, Richard Holbrook, favored as one of the candidates for the post of secretary of state, said that Clinton has repeatedly indicated that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would remain of great importance for the United States after the end of the Cold War.

All this shows that President Clinton's policies will in general resemble those of President George Bush. Some nuances will differ, of course, especially regarding the arms systems and the defense budget. Clinton is likely to cut defense spending significantly. But he is a strong believer in a strong military, just as his predecessor was. The United States will no longer be the world's policeman. Like Bush, Clinton does not believe that this should be American's role. At the same time, he is intent on doing everything possible to protect American interests throughout the world. President Clinton is set to pursue a policy which will uphold human rights and democratic values, although this does not mean that the United States will seek to impose American values on other countries.

In January, when Clinton takes his place as president in the White House, Russia will be the most acute foreign policy problem facing him. By that time, it will be clear whether Russia will be able to meet the International Monetary Fund's requirements on which foreign assistance to that country is hinged. President Clinton will then have to decide whether to try to convince the International Monetary Fund to give several billions of dollars worth of aid to Russia. But even if foreign aid to Russia is approved, the new president is unlikely to do so at the expense of the U.S. economy, his top priority.

Thanks to Clinton, Russians learned that America is experiencing recession. As the specter of unemployment and food rationing threatens Russia, Russians hear that 26 million Americans have to rely on soup kitchens. In other words, Russians have become aware of the fact that the country many of them have been in awe of has its own headaches. The Kremlin understands that America's own economic revival will be its top priority from now on, and there is no sense in hoping that the United States will work miracles in providing assistance to others.

It is also clear to people in Moscow that Clinton does not yet have a reliable team capable of taking over the reigns of U.S. foreign policy. The transition period—in this area at least—will probably last a long time, and America's priorities in international affairs will probably be outlined only by the middle of next year.

Observers note that during his election campaign, Clinton was surrounded by many people who were involved in foreign policy under the previous Democratic president, Jimmy Carter. It was probably due to these people that many of Clinton's pronouncements reeked of Carter's idealism. If this idealism wins the upper hand in American diplomacy and the White House decides to struggle for the triumph of democracy and human rights throughout the world, it will be in for hard times. Rhetoric of that kind was quite effective in the black- and-white world divided into "communists" and "imperialists," but the times have changed.

Should the new administration pursue this course, the United States may face a serious crisis in one or another part of the world as early as next year, with no one to blame but itself.

Another plausible scenario is this: the United States abandons its world policeman role and returns to the idea of isolationism, which was quite popular there before World War II. This version cannot be ruled out since the United States is extremely concerned about domestic matters—the economy, education, and crime.

Judging by Clinton's political platform, Sino-American relations, for instance, will probably weaken and the United States will lean more toward Russia. Japan will henceforth face the need to adjust its policy with respect to China and Russia.

If the new administration adopts a hard line policy in relations with China, South Korea and Japan, which now favor dialogue with the Chinese People's Republic, will face a difficult choice. They will have to explain to the new American administration the importance of diplomacy in relations with China. In order to ensure stability of the situation in Asia as a whole, it is impermissible to let China become isolated.

South Korean diplomats will also face a hard job in bringing home to the new U.S. administration the frailty and vulnerability of relations between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Another example: since Bill Clinton is a champion of major cuts in defense spending, Japan may be asked to take over part of the U.S. burden, including paying the cost of the upkeep of the U.S. armed forces on Japanese territory.

In eleven weeks from now, George Bush will leave the White House and Bill Clinton will take over as U.S. President. The transition period began last Wednesday. The new and old presidents have pledged to cooperate in the transfer of power to ensure continuity.

The time of promises is giving way to the time of expectations. People across the country are waiting to seek what will happen next. Uncertainty is mixed with hope. A new president is usually given time to get started. But for a president who has promised so much, time is already marching apace.

Commentary Views Asian Reaction to Clinton Victory

OW0711014492 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 6 Nov 92

["Short commentary" by station observer Mulatov: "Reverberations Produced in Asia by the New U.S. President"; from the "Current Events and Commentary" program]

[Text] The world still shows no sign of any abatement in its reaction to U.S. Democratic Party presidential candidate Clinton's election as the new president of the United States. He is slated to be officially sworn in on 20 January 1993. However, as incumbent Republican President Bush makes preparations for the handing over of his administration now, prominent figures in society and in the political circles of every country are naturally discussing with keen interest the issue of what kind of a foreign policy the United States will adopt when the new president is at the helm of the state. The following is a short commentary: Reverberations Produced in Asia by the New U.S. President by Mulatov, observer of the Moscow International Radio Station:

First of all, let us look at what prominent figures in Asian countries expect from the change in the U.S. Administration from President Bush to President Clinton. For instance, the opposition leader in the Japanese Diet already warned that Japanese-U.S. economic relations will become even more tense when Clinton is in power. Yamahana, secretary general of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Japan, believes the Clinton Administration will take an even more uncompromising stand in handling its economic relations with Tokyo to reduce the U.S.- Japanese trade deficit and stimulate U.S. economic prosperity.

We would also like to point out: During his election campaign, Clinton promised Americans he would put an end to economic recession, endeavor to bring about an unprecedented economic development, maintain a balance in U.S. trade with foreign countries, and so forth. Today, the United States suffers a deficit in its trade with a number of countries, including China. However, other issues also exist between the United States and China. Of course, so far as China is concerned, she is not indifferent to what kind of measures the new U.S. Administration will choose to solve the problems. What is noteworthy here is that the leadership of China is prepared to cooperate with the Clinton Administration. A REUTER correspondent reported the news from Beijing. News dispatched by foreign reporters from Beijing confirmed that unofficial personalities in China, including government officials [as heard], are willing to discuss possible changes that may occur in Sino-U.S. relations. A REUTER correspondent believes Chinese political figures are worried that Clinton could take a tougher policy toward China due to trade contradictions between the two countries and the different attitudes adopted by Beijing and Washington on the human rights issue. However, the figures in Beijing do not want to exaggerate the tension, and they believe the positive stand taken by Clinton on the trade issue of extension of most-favored-nation status treatment to China will be the touchstone of Clinton's China policy.

Generally speaking, reverberations produced in Asia by the U.S. presidential election and Clinton's victory in the election are quite optimistic, though sometimes they are quite [words indistinct], too. Such reverberations were sent forth from Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, India, the Arab states, Israel, and Turkey. I think the statement of the new U.S. president on the possibility of the United States' working with other countries to create a new, peaceful future after the end of the cold war is in keeping with the spirit of our times.

We have just broadcast station observer Mulatov's short commentary: Reververations Produced in Asia by the New U.S. President.

Mamedov Views U.S. Relations After Election

PM0611114592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Nov 92 p 3

[Report by diplomatic observer Sergey Svistunov: "Russian Foreign Ministry's Position"]

[Text] At a briefing for Russian and foreign journalists, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister G. Mamedov expressed the confidence that good, beneficial relations will be established between the new U.S. Administration headed by B. Clinton and the Russian Government. He presented as a kind of sensation the fact that Russian President B. Yeltsin, in addition to the official congratulations message to B. Clinton, also sent "extensive proposals for a new agenda for Russian-U.S. cooperation on all salients." Actually, he refused to specify the details.

"What is the basis of the Russian Foreign Ministry's certainty that the Americans are not interested in weakening Russia?" your PRAVDA correspondent asked Mamedov.

It is based on the talks which have already been held and the agreements which have been reached with the U.S. side, the deputy minister replied. On the public statements of the present leaders of B. Clinton's U.S. administration and on those of people in his entourage. On our

own information and analysis of U.S. public opinion. In brief, on a whole package of factors.

Of course, in the United States there are circles interested in weakening Russia. The "cold war" did not end that long ago. Whole generations have grown up with an innate sense of distrust in our country. Not everyone in the United States is pleased with the Russian-U.S. rapprochement, just as not everyone is pleased with it here in Russia, either.

We have no illusions that everything will go smoothly between Moscow and Washington: There are and will be competition and differences in political assessments and positions, as is the case now over Yugoslavia, for instance. In disarmament affairs too we do not agree on everything. I am sure that complex and even tough talks with the Americans also await us in the future. But the main thing is joint guidelines which we have reached and a consensus of strategic interests for the consolidation of international security and the democratic reforms in Russia and for other key issues. Although I cannot and do not want to predict an entirely unclouded future in relations with Washington.

Text of Yeltsin Congratulations to Clinton

PM0611114392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Nov 92 First Edition p 1

[Item from roundup of correspondent and news service reports under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Congratulations from the Kremlin"]

[Text] On 4 November Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin sent Bill Clinton a congratulatory telegram.

It reads:

"Accept my sincere congratulations on your election as President of the United States and my wishes for successes in your activity in this lofty and responsible post.

"The leadership of Russia firmly intends to pursue a policy of strengthening relations of friendship and partnership between our countries and making full use of the potential that exists for scaling new heights in Russian-U.S. cooperation."

Moscow, Cuba Conclude Oil-Sugar Barter Deal

OW0611201892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An agreement on mutual deliveries between Russia and Cuba for 1993 envisages an exchange of one million tons of raw sugar for 1.6 million tons of oil. Russia gave a guarantee to export 1 million tons of oil to Cuba, it would additionally deliver 0.5 million tons in case it needed additional Cuban sugar. [figures as received]

Sergey Batchikov, the deputy chief of the trade economic relations department with the countries of Africa and Latin America of the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, reported to INTERFAX that these barter bargains were concluded according to the world prices. Russia needs the Cuban raw sugar in January when the Russian sugar factories complete processing of the domestic raw sugar, Batchikov says. The Cuban sugar will prevent stoppage of production and new unemployment.

Other trade operations on the barter basis are also foreseen for the next year.

Ministry Official Views Relations With Cuba

OW0911141692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboinikov, and Igor Porshnev—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After a long period of stagnation relations between Russia and Cuba are beginning to develop on the principles of "parity and mutual benefit", said Aleksey Ermakov, deputy chief of the Latin American department of Russia's Foreign Ministry. According to him, "the pause in our relations wasn't useless, since it enabled both sides to revise their interests and opportunities".

Judging by what the diplomat said, the basis of economic ties between Russia and Cuba remains the same: "oil against sugar". It is believed that next year Cuba will be able to receive from Russia 2.2 to 3 million tons of oil and oil products in exchange for 1 to 1.5 million tons of sugar.

Apart from this, talks will continue on the construction and exploitation of plants producing nickel concentrate, even though the two sides have not managed to come to an agreement concerning investments so far.

At their recent talks in Moscow Russia and Cuba also agreed to expand the list of Russian commodities exported to Cuba, and to continue the building of the Juragua nuclear-power station "with the involvement of a third party" (according to some reports, this might be France, where the Cubans intended to buy an automated system for running the station).

A sober approach based on national interests prevailed in the area of defence cooperation, the diplomat said. Russia will conclude the withdrawal of its troops from Cuba by July 1 next year. Only a small group of Russian military specialists will remain there. Their main task will be to give technical consultations and repair equipment.

Russia's radioelectronic center whose staff makes up several hundred people will also remain on the island (it is believed that the center is an effective means of

monitoring compliance with the treaty on strategic offensive weapons in the Western Hemisphere; in the future it might play an important role in the efforts to build a global defence system Russia and the USA are working on). In compensation for the presence of the center Russia will supply Cuba with spare parts for military equipment, ammunition and building materials.

Kozyrev Forecasts Tajik Settlement Prospects

LD0811220592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on return from Alma-Ata meeting on Tajikistan situation; place and date not given—from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Announcer] On his return to Moscow, Andrey Kozyrev shared with Itogi his forecast on the settlement prospects in Tajikistan.

[Kozyrev] My forecast is not very optimistic so far. On the one hand, in Alma-Ata, the leaders of the three Asian states and myself managed to elaborate a solid framework for the settlement, to confirm the responsibility borne by the CIS, and to draw up ways of solving this question which include, but are not limited to, setting up the State Council and convening a session of the Tajik Supreme Soviet.

On the other hand, the tour of Tajikistan itself—of Dushanbe and Kulyab, other areas, conflict zones—revealed that the authority is largely fragmented there, and forces ranging from Islamic fundamentalists to communists and even criminal elements are at work. However, there is one force that is playing a stabilizing, peacemaking role: the Russian troops. Now the commander of the 201st Division, General Ashurov, is deputy chairman of the State Council. This gives him further authority to maintain basic law and order, prevent civilian deaths and destruction of material assets, especially in towns, and defend the rights of local inhabitants, both Tajiks and Uzbeks, as well as the Russian-speaking population, who may turn out to be especially vulnerable. I advocate an even firmer stand on this issue than the one taken so far.

Luckily, our mission was not futile. A certain foundation has been laid for further settlement. However, one should not raise expectations. Ongoing attempts to resolve this issue through use of force may be anticipated. The sooner these attempts are left behind as having no future, the better it will be for Tajikistan and all the political forces in the area.

'Full Schedule' Postpones German Minister's Trip

LD0611142692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Nov—The visit to Russia by FRG Finance Minister Theo Waigel planned for 10 November has been postponed indefinitely by mutual agreement of the two sides in connection with an extremely full schedule of political meetings and consultations. Work on the issues connected to the coming meeting of the heads of the Russian and German states will be continued at the level of experts.

A BUSINESS-TASS correspondent was told this in the FRG Embassy. It was noted that the visits to the FRG at the beginning of November by Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and Minister of Economy and Finances Andrey Nechayev aided a better understanding of each other's positions on a wide range of issues.

Specialists Evacuated From Angolan Project Site

LD0711043892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0330 GMT 7 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korzun]

[Excerpt] Luanda, 7 Nov—Seven Brazilian and 21 Russian specialists were taken to the Angolan capital the evening of 6 November from the "Capanda" hydropower station site in Malanje Province, which was occupied by soldiers from the national Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] on 4 November. A "Hercules" transport plane was sent there on 6 November after an agreement was reached with the UNITA leadership. According to records, as of 6 November 55 of our compatriots were at the project site. As Russian Ambassador to Angola Yuriy Kapralov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent, it is planned to evacuate the remaining part of the group on 7 November. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Chairs Presidential Council Meeting

LD0611191192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1609 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Nov—The Presidential Consultative Council today discussed the socioeconomic situation in Russia and issues concerning preparations for the Congress of People's Deputies. Taking part in the session chaired by Boris Yeltsin were Gennadiy Burbulis, Georgiy Arbatov, Oleg Bogomolov, Yuriy Ryzhov, Gavriil Popov, Anatoliy Sobchak, Yekaterina Lyakhova, and other members of the council. The question of preparations for the Congress, the Russian president noted, is very important from the point of view of developing strategy and tactics since "the revanchist forces intend to try to take revenge at the Congress and destroy the government." However, he noted, we have the will and strength to prepare ourselves over the remaining month so as not to let the progress of the reforms be destroyed and not let the opposition send the government into retirement—in any event, the main part of it, headed by Yegor Gaydar—and we will defend the political course of democratic Russia.

During the exchange of opinions that took place, Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, reported that a number of the council's members criticized some of the government's actions. At the same time, Pavel Bunich, for example, noted that they should not only criticize: There are already positive movements in the economy and the fall in production is lessening. Questions concerning the consolidation of democratic forces were discussed as well. According to the press secretary, it was suggested to the president that it is necessary to work more actively with the intelligentsia. Boris Yeltsin replied that a meeting is being prepared with representatives of the intelligentsia. They spoke about the need for a law or referendum on land that would knock the ground out from under a significant part of the opposition.

Vyacheslav Kostikov said that the results of the latest public opinion poll were circulated at the session. The president still has the highest rating, though he is falling together with the Supreme Soviet. Over 50 percent of the population want the reforms to continue, according to the poll.

Anatoliy Sobchak expressed the view that a government reshuffle cannot be avoided because the Congress will demand it. In this connection the president confirmed his well-known position that Yegor Gaydar must stay, since "he is the symbol and driving force of reform." Boris Yeltsin admitted that only one minister who could be replaced had been named at the session, but he did not say who.

He went on to say that the desire was expressed at the session that the president should ponder various options for action. But, unfortunately, none of those present put forward any concrete scenario of his own. This means that the members of the council are appealing to the president's experience and wisdom, rather than giving their own fully worked-out proposals.

The subject arose of how far the president can go in countering possible head-on attacks by the opposition. Boris Yeltsin stressed once again that his responses will be dictated by the level of pressure from the conservative forces.

"The president," Vyacheslav Kostikov said, "wishes to act exclusively within the framework of the Constitution, and any tough measures could only arise from an extreme situation of confrontation."

The head of state was called upon at the session to put an end to the unlimited fascist propaganda being waged in such newspapers as DEN, GLASNOST, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. There were many complaints in this connection against Yegor Yakovlev, who is a member of the council and the head of the Ostankino television and radio company.

[In a similar report, transmitted by KYODO, Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1909 GMT on 6 November adds: "As INTERFAX managed to learn, on the eve of the Congress, on November 24, Yeltsin would have a conference with the heads of the republics within the Russian Federation and heads of regional administrations."]

Rules Out Government Resignation

MK0711131592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Nov 92 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report under the "Authority" rubric: "Gaydar Must Not Be Allowed To Step Down. Consultative Council Is Relying on the President"]

[Text] Yesterday Boris Yeltsin assembled his consultative council in the Kremlin. The following attended: Aleksey Yemelyanov, Gennadiy Burbulis, Gavriil Popov, Yuriy Koryakin, Sergey Stankevich, Yevgeniy Arbatov, Yegor Yakovlev, Anatoliy Sobchak, Dmitriy Volkogonov, Pavel Bunich, and even Yuriy Ryzhov from Paris.

Yeltsin proposed a single issue for discussion: The socioeconomic and political situation in Russia and preparations for the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies. As the president stressed, the issue is serious. "To plan strategy and tactics at the Congress, since the revanchist forces want to take their revenge and smash the government. They are consolidating in a determined manner."

Which cannot be said of the democrats. The meeting in the Kremlin is yet another attempt by the president to initiate ideas on how to rescue the reforms. "We have a month (before the Congress—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA)," Yeltsin reminded his listeners, "we have the strength and the potential, and outstanding brains.

We must not allow the course of reforms to be destroyed, we must not entertain the possibility of the resignation of the government or the principal part of it headed by Gaydar, we must uphold the political course of 'Democratic Russia.'"

It seems that Democratic Russia itself ought to be capable of preventing the "destruction" of the reforms. But judging by the discussion at the presidential consultative council, its only trump card at the present time remains the collection of signatures for a referendum on selling land. There was one other proposal put forward by Sobchak, namely, prevent a state of emergency and work with the Supreme Soviet and the Congress. Sobchak also noted that it is impossible to avoid losses in the government. Yeltsin yet again repeated that Gaydar must not be allowed to step down.

The president's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov made the following comment on the discussion at the presidential consultative council: "Unfortunately, the people who gathered at the council appealed to Yeltsin's experience rather than coming up with specific plans and concepts." The principal question for the best minds in Russia was: How far can Yeltsin go in his opposition to parliament and the Congress? Boris Yeltsin basically remained true to the remarks he has made on a number of occasions: "I will give as good as I get." It was also suggested to the president that he should organize a meeting with the intelligentsia and rely more on it. Yeltsin answered that such a meeting is being prepared.

In a discussion about the revanchist forces, several criticisms were addressed at the meeting to Yegor Yakovlev, who fails to address the topic of real fascism in his programs.

Yeltsin, Ethnic Leader Denounce Attacks on Government

LD0611182092 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow November 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ramazan Abdulatipov, head of the Russian parliament Council of Nationalities, have denounced attacks on the Russian Supreme Soviet, the president and the government at a time of general instability in Russia.

A press release of the Russian parliament press centre issued on Friday did not say when the meeting took place, but added that Abdulatipov gave Yeltsin the text of an appeal to the president and the parliament adopted by the Council of Nationalities earlier this week.

According to the press release, Yeltsin and Abdulatipov criticised attempts by "extreme political forces" to "drive a wedge between the legislative and executive bodies of power."

They stressed this poses a "mortal threat to the state and citizens of Russia and destroys the positive effects of the signing of the Federal treaty." "This path is leading the country to an abyss, therefore it is time to do away with disagreements between the president, the government and the Supreme Soviet of Russia."

Yeltsin is expected to meet with deputies of the Council of Nationalities next week to discuss "joint activities to stabilise the social and political life in the country," the press release said.

More on Yeltsin's 5 Nov News Conference

OW0611194892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian society is shaping up a better view of the expediency and objectives of the economic reforms, President Yeltsin observed at a press conference in the Kremlin on Thursday [5 November]. In the opinion of the head of state, this fact will determine the social climate in the country in the near future. The president avers he possesses extensive and unbiased information regarding the disposition of the Russian people.

"There is no chaos in Russia," he said. "There are certain difficulties related to the transitional period of this unique country, but we can overcome them." The President categorically opposed the idea of instituting any "presidential" party which, in the opinion of its proponents, could contribute to the reforms. "I am not going to set up my own party. As a president, I represent the whole nation and the whole society," he emphasized. A political party, Boris Yeltsin explained, needs a social basis, while "the social basis for the head of state is all the Russian population".

Asked how he was going to spend the 7th of November, the President answered, "Just as all the other weekdays or holidays—I'll be working from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.".

[In another report on Yeltsin's news conference, Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 7 November in a page-1 article adds: "Answering a question as to whether the president is prepared to take extraordinary measures in the face of the deteriorating political situation in the country, Boris Yeltsin remarked that 'the level of measures will be dictated by the level of the opposition's resistance in relation to destroying the reforms.' He also does not consider that he has made a mistake by not having his own political party because, according to him, the president represents "all parties and the entire Russian people."]

Deputy Premier Denies Congress Can Oust Gaydar

OW0611171392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 7th congress of people's deputies cannot remove Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar from his post, because such a thing is not the congress's prerogative, Russia's First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko told IF [INTERFAX]. Before and after the congress, the decision concerning the members of the government will be taken by the president, he continued.

In his opinion, if the deputies pass the vote of no-confidence, the executive bodies will not be affected.

Speaking about the Civic Union, Shumeyko said that its programme has many provisions dealing with what the government has already done, is doing or is planning to do. At the same time, Shumeyko continued, some of the provisions cannot be accepted by the government because they are quite dangerous.

He said that the Cabinet will express its official point of view on the programme during the Civic Union's congress on November 14.

Shumeyko 'Cannot Even Imagine' Coalition Government

MK0611123992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Nov 92 p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Shumeyko, Russian vice premier, by Vladimir Todres under the "Government" rubric; place, date not given: "Vladimir Shumeyko: 'I Would Not Surrender a Single Member of the Government.' But the President Will Decide"]

[Text] [Todres] Vladimir Filippovich, what is your forecast—will the government survive in its present form?

[Shumeyko] Different political groups have their own aspirations in this regard, of course. This is normal: What good is the soldier who does not dream of becoming a general? It is true that this struggle is not always waged by normal methods... With regard to my opinion about the composition of the cabinet, there is one thing I do know: Today the government is a normal and coordinated mechanism. Recently it has been working as a single unit, thank God. And I would not surrender a single member of the government to anyone. But the president is the one who decides the question of changes in the composition of the cabinet, dismissals, and timing. However, if five or six people go—the ones everybody is talking about—the rest will have to decide what they are going to do. Each one separately. For the time being, however, we are working as a single mechanism.

[Todres] But won't the cabinet's program inevitably change with the departure of its main members?

[Shumeyko] Quite true. And in my opinion, it is scarcely possible to take this step now that society has already made so many sacrifices in order to reach this point.

[Todres] Gaydar, in an interview he gave to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, said that he is prepared to come to an agreement on forming a coalition government...

[Shumeyko] Well, what does "coalition" mean? In general, what is a government? It is not just a premier and vice premiers, it is the leaders of ministries and state committees. A fairly large staff... At the level of a number of state committees and sector ministries some changes may take place. This may then be called a "coalition government." How is a classic coalition cabinet established in developed democracies? On the basis of election results relating to party lists, the victorious parties form a cabinet by uniting in a coalition. Powerful or strong parties of this sort do not exist in Russia today. With the exception of "Civic Union," perhaps, which advertises itself as such. We shall go to the Congress and listen to their program. If as a result we decide to introduce changes into our strategy that require a change in the composition of the cabinet, a coalition government will result. Which is something, admittedly, that I cannot even imagine at the present time...

Shokhin Discusses Clinton, Upcoming Congress

OW0611195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A crisis decision" was the way Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin characterized the situation in Russia during a meeting with a small group of journalists on Thursday evening. He called conditions in the country critical, since during the next month or two, the country will have a choice placed before it: either a turn back to the freezing of prices and wages by state orders, or the continuation of reform.

On the Situation Surrounding the Government

According to Shokhin, the meeting of the government on Thursday was "a clear expression of the consolidation of its members." It was decided, he said, that "neither the cabinet nor its individual members would be making any fussy moves. We won't be giving any Christmas gifts to the Congress of People's Deputies in order to mollify them. We will proceed as planned." He expressed surprise that Civic Union was "making such primitive demands for a shake-up in the government." In Shokhin's opinion, "this looked a lot like an ultimatum from people who were asking the president for cabinet jobs for themselves."

On the Congress of People's Deputies

The coming congress is a "natural disaster" for the very idea of stable political and economic growth. "It's an abnormal element in political life. Parliament is supposed to be stable and work without twice-yearly apocalyptic shocks," said Shokhin. He is convinced that "it would have been proper for the legislative and executive authorities to unite in order to hasten the adoption of a new constitution and the holding of elections without excessive drama."

On Reform

The main task of the current Cabinet of Ministers, contends Shokhin, is to "stand up for the course of reform," because it, in his opinion, "is itself in danger." "We are already, according to many indicators—inflation, the budget deficit, the production slump—on the edge of one of the turning point of reform, when each wrong move may pitch us into hyperinflation." The main achievement of the current government, says Shokhin, is that "it got society out of the dead end of indecisive steps, and the search for a third path."

On Shakhray's Being Named Vice Premier

Shokhin said that he is "greatly enthusiastic" about the naming of Sergey Shakhray to the post of deputy head of the Russian government. "Shakhray's participation in the government is completely appropriate, especially now, before the Congress of People's Deputies," he said.

On the Coming Visit to Russia by the German Chancellor

According to Shokhin, economic questions will be at the center of attention during German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coming visit to Moscow. The main subjects of discussion will be the settlement of Russia's foreign debt, the appraisal of property left behind after the withdrawal of the Western Group of forces, Russia's fulfilling of its financial obligations, and the growth of bilateral economic cooperation. Shokhin says that Boris Yeltsin has "a clearly expressed wish for a constructive dialogue with the chancellor regarding these problems."

On Clinton's Victory in the American Presidential Election

Shokhin believes that President-elect Bill Clinton's election victory in the United States will not lead to any significant change in Russian-American economic relations. In addition, the vice premier noted that in all of the Bush administration's directives regarding Russia, the provision of humanitarian and technical aid to Russia depended upon domestic political expediency. "I would like to think that the Democrats will turn out to be less politicized," he added.

On Yeltsin's Visit to Great Britain

Shokhin reported on arrangements with Britain to open a line of credit totalling 280 million pounds sterling during the president's coming visit to London. There is also talk of private credits issued with state guarantees.

Minister Warns Reshuffle May Curtail Reform

OW0611171692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Minister of Labour Gennadiy Melikyan said that reshuffling in the government before the Congress of People's Deputies, scheduled for December 1, would be a big mistake and pose a serious threat to the reform. "The replacement of individual members of the government will not satisify those who demand the government's resignation, while the smell of blood may only intensify the appetite," he said. He admitted that there are people in Russia who might run the state better than the current government, but added that the Gaydar team has realized the need to adjust its course and has already made the necessary changes in it.

The resignation of Gaydar will mean the curtailment of the reforms, he said. He also noted that increased attacks on the Gaydar government are caused by the fact that the reforms have come to a point beyond which return to the old system will become impossible.

Civic Union Approves Economic Crisis Program

LD0711093492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow November 6 TASS—The Political Council of the Civil Union bloc today approved a "program of actions to overcome Russian economic crisis".

The document gives an estimation of the Russian economic situation and offers emergency anti-crisis measures in the sphere of the investment-structural, credit-financial, banking and tax policy, as well as in the sphere of privatization and the agro-industrial complex, and the social and foreign economic policy.

The Civil Union offers a package of emergency anti-crisis measures to solve two tasks—to stop the chaotic production recession and to take under control inflation processes in the economy.

In the investment-structural policy sphere they offer to concentrate the state's possibilities on key enterprises of the fuel-energy complex, the production of major consumer goods and medicines, transport and communications, most science-consuming enterprises of the defence complex and key links of the agro-industrial complex.

In these branches it is necessary to carry out a state investment support and a complex of measures to encourage their activities, says the document.

In the credit-financial, banking and tax policy sphere, the Civil Union offers, in particular, to refuse from tough orientation on the deficit-free budget and hold a "reasonable financing of priority branches and most acute social programs".

The program also carries proposals on correcting the privatization process, in particular, the prolongation of voucher granting for two or three years.

The final part of the program notes "the new economic policy must be based on active role of the state". The current crisis, in the opinion of the Civil Union, can be overcome only by the roundtable government to be supported by leading factions of the Supreme Soviet and public-political movements on the basis of a clear economic program.

The leading role in the organization of the roundtable and functioning of the coalition government must be played by the Russian president, says the document.

The anti-crisis program of the Civil Union was prepared with the assistance of the Russian Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Economic Forecasts and the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Market Problems.

The public-political bloc Civil Union includes the Popular Party of Free Russia, the Russian Democratic Party, the Renovation All- Russian Union and a number of influential parliamentary factions and youth organizations.

To Work With Government on Reforms

LD0711110792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] A new program of economic reform in Russia will be drawn up by a joint group to be created soon by the government and the Civic Union bloc. Aleksandr Vladislavlev, a bloc leader, said in an interview with the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI that an understanding on the subject already has been reached in principle. Vladislavlev believes that the future program will be based on a plan of action drawn up by Civic Union to surmount the crisis. The plan coincides with the government's program in a number of respects. Civic Union, however, intends to reject the rigid urge to achieve a nondeficit budget and intends to carry out modifications to the privatization program.

Labor Minister Criticizes Program

OW0611171892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Minister of Labour Gennadiy Melikyan announced on Friday [6 November] that the program proposed by the Civil Union was politically motivated and that by offering this program to the government, the centrist alliance had made a sure step.

The similarity of this program's provisions with the government's policy may allow the Civil Union to lay claims on an executive role on the one hand, and, if the government refuses to use their services, to accuse it of reluctance to cooperate with sound political forces.

Melikyan believes at the same time, that some of the Civil Union's proposals go far beyond the limits of the government program. "In fact, " he said, "their program means the curtailment of the reforms, not their adjustment".

Democatic Party Chief Travkin Briefs Press

Says Yeltsin Sees Importance of Union

LD0811182192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The recent meeting between the Russian president and leaders of Civic Union shows that Boris Yeltsin recognizes the influence of this opposition organization, maintains Nikolay Travkin, one of the union's leaders and chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia.

Speaking today at a conference of the Moscow branch of his party, he disclaimed the allegation that when they suggested a government reshuffle the leaders of Civic Union were demanding portfolios for themselves, INTERFAX reports.

Blames Yeltsin Aides for Leak

LD0811223192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 8 Nov 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] At a news conference today by the Moscow branch of the Democratic Party of Russia, Nikolay Travkin stated that the leak of information on Civic Union's proposals regarding a government reshuffle was initiated by people near the president who, in his words, are destined to resign.

Travkin stressed that Civic Union believes it right for Gaydar to be kept as head of the government and hopes that the seventh Congress of People's Deputies will ensure that personnel reforms are carried out in the government. [passage omitted]

Denies Giving Yeltsin Ultimatum

LD0811224992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX, Nikolay Travkin, one of the leaders of Civic Union and chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR], has described the following scenario for the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies as being the most acceptable:

There ought to be personnel changes in the government and adjustments to the policy of economic reform. Furthermore, what he calls the hornet's nest of plotters surrounding the president must be dispersed. In exchange, the congress would be prepared to agree to Boris Yeltsin's other proposals.

Asked whom the Civil Union wants to see in the Cabinet of Ministers, Nikolay Travkin mentioned Yevgeniy Saburov as a candidate for minister of economics, Vladimir Lukin or Yuliy Vorontsov as foreign minister, and Vasiliy Lipitskiy as minister of information. Nikolay Travkin stressed that by nominating these candidates, Civic Union is not issuing an ultimatum to the president. The names were merely offered as food for thought, Travkin said.

Sobchak Cites Concept of New Constitution

PM0611132592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Nov 92 p 2

["TASS exclusive for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI" interview with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak conducted by Lyudmila Fomicheva; date not given: "Anatoliy Sobchak: A Constitution Capable of Lasting Centuries Is Needed"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—[Sobchak] Constitutional problems now constitute the most important problems. We have really gotten to the point now where, without a serious change in legislation and the creation of a new legislative base, it is impossible for us to create new political, economic, and social structures.

[Fomicheva] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, how do you see this most important state document?

[Sobchak] Any compromises geared toward satisfying either people who are operating in the political arena or certain short-term considerations are dangerous. The official draft, which I saw in the summer, has serious defects: It contains an abundance of general clauses, showy declarations, and, most gravely, maintains the idea of the soviets as representative bodies. There is nothing there that provides a fundamentally new attitude toward the Constitution as a law which should operate for centuries rather than changing every few years.

That is precisely why I regard the official draft pretty negatively. Perhaps it will be possible to improve it during the process of finalization. But as a result of the development of events in the former socialist countries and here, I have come to the conclusion that we are today, unfortunately, not ready for either democracy or a new Constitution. Given the present makeup of parliament and our still undeveloped political parties, we will not be able to adopt a proper constitutional draft, one which will lay down the foundation of Russian life for many decades to come.

It may therefore be sensible, as has been done in Poland, to adopt for two to three years a law—provisional in nature—defining the relations between and demarcating the powers of the representative and executive structures of power. And then, when we have reelected parliament, created fundamentally new structures of power, and overcome the economic problems of the transitional period, we will adopt a new Constitution.

If, however, parliament adopts a compromise Constitution which does not take a step forward compared with what we have today, it will be a disaster for Russia, as our development will get bogged down for many years to come. But we will all the same, sooner or later, get back to the realization that you have to start by tackling the constitutional problems.

[Fomicheva] The adoption of a new Constitution means reforming the entire legislative system, does it not?

[Sobchak] Of course. The lack of a normal Constitution holds back all the rest of the legislation. The question is not how to write the constitution, but what it contains. The present Supreme Soviet and Congress have for three years now been unable to resolve the question of introducing private ownership of land. Everyone now understands, it seems, and 90 percent of citizens have expressed themselves in favor, but they are still dreaming up pretexts and keeping the people in a half-starved state. Nothing will happen until we introduce private ownership of land.

It is possible to show, using the example of St. Petersburg, that if you give each citizen 1,000 to 1,500 square meters of neglected land, he will develop it and that land will bear fruit and feed him.

This year, as we enter winter, it is much easier for us with regard to food provision, thanks largely to the fact that 18,000 hectares were allocated for horticulture and truck farming in the spring. But, you know, 45,000 hectares were actually earmarked for this; and if the oblast had not opposed it, the food problem would have been eliminated.

These are the realities of the alternative economic life. The extent of the success of our political and economic reforms depends on them.

[Fomicheva] What must the content of the Fundamental Law be like to ensure that it is able to play its constitutional role in strengthening the integrity of Russia?

[Sobchak] For that the priorities of human rights as compared to the rights of citizens and representatives of a specific nationality should form the basis of the Constitution. Hence the rejection of the Stalinist idea of autonomous formations, which have led to our present lamentable state.

The Fundamental Law must enshrine a clause whereby every people, every republic, and every state formation can join the federation, but no one needs any right of secession, any right to encroach upon the integrity of the

state. A demand to revise borders or an attempt to split the state must be deemed very serious crimes. Russia's unity has to be preserved.

The actual idea of the national-state and territorial-state system has to be approached differently. First, consolidate the relevant territorial formation; second, provide the national-state system with national-cultural autonomy. And not just for those who live in their own republic, but throughout the territory of Russia we should provide the opportunity for other nationalities to study their native language, to publish their own newspapers, and go to their own schools. If we do this, other issues will take a back seat. That is the only way we will be able to maintain the unity and integrity of Russia—not Russia as an empire but as a democratic state of peoples enjoying equal rights, where there will be no "nationality" entry at all in the passport. Russia must proclaim and consistently implement a correct, sensible, clear-cut, and comprehensible policy both on questions of national-cultural autonomy and on questions of the withdrawal of the Russophone population from those republics where a threat to their life is posed.

Possibility of 'Direct Presidential Rule' Eyed

PM0611144592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Nov 92 p 1

[Reports by I. Kots and correspondent A. Cherkasov under general headline: "Emergency Coming to a Head in the Kremlin Again: Who Will Defend the White House this Time?"—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The possibility of direct presidential rule being introduced into Russia is now being discussed in earnest not just in journalist circles but in the top echelons of power. Yeltsin's meeting Monday with leaders of the "constructive opposition" in the shape of the Civic Union, which was held, according to the accounts of participants, in a calm and businesslike atmosphere, has by no means removed the question of presidential rule from the agenda. In the opinion of Civic Union experts, the likelihood that the president will decide on this step remains high. In this regard the forecast of how the regions of Russia will react to the suspension of the activity of the supreme organs of representative power could be of crucial significance. It is small wonder that Yeltsin should report just before his trip to Astrakhan that government leaders intend very soon to visit all the main regions of Russia and sound out public opinion.

We contacted two regions whose leaders, Valentin Fedorov (Sakhalin) and Aman Tuleyev (Kuzbass), are well known for their inclination to express their discontent to the president. What are Yeltsin's chances of finding support for his moves there?

Kuzbass

[I. Kots report] Kemerovo—"Direct presidential rule is essential," Vyacheslav Sharipov, chairman of the Kuzbass Independent Trade Union of Miners, argued to your correspondent.

The other day the Independent Trade Union of Miners and the council of workers' committees adopted a joint statement. It expresses distrust of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

Far from all Russian Federation deputies are delighted about assembling in Moscow in December. Several Russian parliamentarians from the Kuzbass promptly expressed themselves in favor of postponing the congress to the spring. These include the head of the oblast administration, Mikhail Kislyuk.

However, there is no consensus in the camp of the executive power. Kemerovo Mayor Vladimir Mikhaylov (he is a republic deputy) said on local television: "The congress is necessary in order to modify the course of reforms." The oblast soviet, headed by Aman Tuleyev, has not reacted to the situation to date.

Communists from the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP] are the most radically minded. Teymuraz Avaliani, first secretary of their oblast party committee and a dissident of the Brezhnev era, urges resolute action: "People, take to the streets! Government, resign! Down with Yeltsin!"

However, the masses are unlikely to respond to the neo-Bolsheviks' impassioned speeches. It is too cold for rallies.

Sakhalin

[A. Cherkasov report] In conversation with your correspondent, Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov said the following: Newspapers are rife with statements that you cannot switch to presidential rule in Russia without violating the Constitution. It is strange to hear such things. If just 100 Yeltsin supporters unite to boycott the Supreme Soviet, the latter will not be legally entitled to make decisions. And the president will be forced to take the reins of the country's leadership into his own hands. In other words, presidential rule does not have to be introduced by the head of state—it can be done perfectly constitutionally by his supporters.

I am now engaged in searching for the latter. I have, in particular, urged Russian people's deputies to boycott the December congress. At least 350 signatures need to be collected. And I pin great hopes on moderate patriotic forces, of which I regard myself as a representative. Finally, we should remember that, in addition to legislative and executive power, there does exist another power in Russia—presidential power—which demands respect. I urge those who think like me to stop hounding Yeltsin. At the same time moderate, promarket patriots should be included without fail in the government. The

Gaydar team does not need to be removed, but certain emphases in its work do need to be shifted.

I give Moscow two to three days to ponder my proposals. If, however, no response follows, I will start campaigning for a boycott of the congress independently.

Scenarios Leading to 'Disintegration' Pondered

MK0711113592 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 45, 4-10 Nov 92 (Signed to Press 3 Nov 92) pp 1, 3

[Dmitriy Olshanskiy article: "Direct Route to the End of the World"]

[Text] The October crisis of confrontation between the legislative and executive branches has shown that the struggle is entering the decisive stage. It is clear that we seem to have reached the limit. But is this so? It looks as though there is still some way to go and the worst is yet to come. We do not have long to wait—the Congress opens 1 December. Let's consider possible scenarios "ahead of the Congress," so to speak.

Game Plans and Their Consequences. Scenario No 1: "Impeachment"

People's deputies, who are partly masking their intentions by attacking the government, on 1 December launch an all-out attack and demand the resignation of B.N. Yeltsin. Under the constitution, the Congress is entitled to raise and even decide the question of impeachment and to pass on presidential powers to someone else, for instance, to the present vice president. Or, if he decides to back the president and finds himself also drawn into the impeachment process, to someone else. Perhaps to the speaker of parliament. Or, in view of his problems, to the vice speaker. In theory any scenarios are possible at the Congress, which is the highest legislative organ—it would merely be enough to amend the constitution.

Okay, dismissal takes place. Probably President Yeltsin, the people around him, and the associated structures of executive power would resist, stressing the president's legitimacy and emphasizing the less than full legitimacy of the people's deputies. If the president did not have sufficient resources to resist in Moscow, he would be able to use the so-called "reserve center for running the country." As is well known, this center, which is located in an underground bunker near Yekaterinburg, has long been ready. Once he was safe, relying on the support of "his" regions, Yeltsin would be able to appeal directly to the people, accusing the deputies of staging a coup.

A situation would arise in which two presidents—one in the Urals, the other in Moscow—would become opposite poles of political attraction.

In today's situation the existence of two presidents—one "people's" president, and a second "parliamentary" president—would cause an extremely profound split in management organs, society as a whole, and the armed forces in particular. The result would be either civil war or territorial demarcation. With, say, a Central Russian (or simply Russian) Republic with its capital in Moscow and a Urals-Siberian state with its capital in Yekaterinburg.

Scenario No 2: "Dispersal of the Constituent Assembly"

Acting preemptively in the expectation of harsh attacks from the people's deputies, the president is the first to open "hostilities." The Congress begins, and he immediately submits a draft new constitution providing for a presidential republic and with no mention at all of any Congress. Or this is done before the Congress, and the draft is submitted "for the people's verdict." Ultimately it makes little difference: By telling the deputies to adopt this draft, the president will thereby be forcing them to vote for self-dissolution.

In all probability the people's deputies, learning from the bitter experience of their Union predecessors, would not simply go. They would have at least two possibilities. The first would be massive regional resistance to presidential power, an appeal to the people, and widespread civil disobedience. The second possibility would be to assemble in one or several major regional centers and take over power there. The Siberian deputies could assemble in Omsk, the south Russian deputies in Rostov-na-Donu. There is a historical analogy: the creation of the Siberian Directorate in Omsk during the civil war from a number of former ministers and Duma deputies, making Admiral Kolchak the supreme ruler of Siberia. We have no problem with admirals and generals in our country.

In this case a situation would arise where there were several regional or supraregional deputies' governments. There are some regions that are ready for this: Remember the "Yenisey republic," the "Siberian agreement," the "Greater Urals" association... Not to mention the national republics within Russia or, for instance, the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples.

Scenario No 3: "The West Will Help Us!"

These are situations stemming from the government's independent line. In the opinion of a number of deputies, the main problems are caused by the fact that the government is gradually supplanting the president. The president seems to be happy with this and is merely signing edicts and directives prepared by Gaydar. These deputies think it is necessary to retain the legitimate president, but are afraid that, with his connivance, the government will also supplant parliament. In particular, by taking over control of the Central Bank of Russia and removing it from parliament's control—both ministers and Yeltsin have already proclaimed that intention.

In this scenario the people's deputies would not demand impeachment and would attack only the government. The president could either give it his "full backing" (then scenario No. 1 would operate) or "surrender" the government, blaming it for all the grave consequences of the

economic reform. Then the government would have two possibilities. Either, by using executive power (maybe even with the president's covert support), to try to supplant the deputies' structures and obtain their submission. To buy some people off, intimidate others, and arrest others after orchestrating scandals. The scenario could scarcely prove effective—it would evoke regional resistance from the surviving section of the body of deputies, and matters would boil down to scenario No. 2, with a few differences.

Or, finding itself in a critical situation, the government would appeal to the West, explaining the need for its assistance by citing the task of supporting the economic reforms at all costs and preventing the restoration of a totalitarian system. In this case everything would depend on the West's position. NATO circles are already saying that they were late in intervening in Yugoslavia, were unable to make up their minds, and waited until there was such carnage that it was impossible to introduce troops. Incidentally, in the fall they set up a special rapid-response corps headed by a Scottish gentleman, General Mackenzie. For the future. It is clear that overly active and ill-considered Western support for our government in a crisis could cause a fresh upsurge of disintegration processes based on regional resistance to "occupation actions," regardless of the specific way in which the West helped the government—propaganda aid, economic aid, or some other kind. Through the efforts of the opposition deputies this could evoke extremely strong civil disobedience to the Moscow authorities.

Scenario No 4: "Crushing the Authorities"

None of the protagonists is able to launch large-scale actions. Then the power struggle will break out in small-scale ways. Someone will be found to be "high," someone else throws himself out of a window at night, someone else is knocked down by a car, someone else has a sudden heart attack... What other methods are found in the arsenal?

Unfortunately, there is no unity of views in the top echelon of power. Nor is there absolute commitment to the law. So anything is possible. It is even possible that one representative of the elite would send a squad of armed people who are personally devoted to him in order to isolate another representative. And the latter, learning of this (Moscow is a city of rumors) would send a dozen of his guys. It would not be so bad if both bunches of guys did their job neatly. But no, they would be bound to run into each other somewhere near a busy square. Then the shooting would start. Then some minister would send two or three tanks to help his friend's guys. In response, some commander of a helicopter regiment outside Moscow would dispatch a couple of "choppers" with antitank guided missiles... In short, the next day we might wake up and find ourselves not in Moscow but in some kind of Sarajevo.

The world is full of rumors. Not only about the guards of parliament, but also about armed relatives of Khasbulatov and about the "Chechen mafia." About Burbulis' role in setting up the People's Patriotic Party on the basis of the Union of Veterans of Afghanistan—strong guys with combat experience. About the old military connections of General Rutskoy. About the covert potential of the Security Council. And they all feature armed people. Excuse the cliche, but when you see a gun hanging on a wall on stage, when is someone going to use it?

On Top of That, Disintegration

Any good game includes an element of unpredictability. Even when players can see each other's cards, there is the mystery of what card you will be given. Unfortunately, in the present political game that card is the disintegration of Russia. At the 16 October conference the heads of the republics within Russia listened to Yeltsin's promises of future new rights and benefits (on top of those envisioned by the Federation Treaty!) and signed an appeal to parliament. In support of the president's request for the postponement of the Congress and essentially against Khasbulatov. But on 28 September those same heads of those same republics had made a different statement: in support of the speaker and essentially against the government. What's it all about? Either they are extremely susceptible to persuasion even when it is mutually exclusive, or they are looking after their own interests and merely represent low trump cards in the big Moscow game. Probably the latter.

Russia's cities and villages are watching the games in the capital with interest. The former Soviet republics watched in more or less the same way in August of last year. They too first came to Novo-Ogarevo and initialed something there. Then they seized their opportunity and made it a dead end. Incidentally, that was when the Union parliament ceased to exist on the recommendation of the Union president. Isn't everything all too similar?

Unfortunately so. Therefore what is increasingly often coming to mind is a kind of scenario No. 5: "Foros-92," so to speak. As soon as power in Moscow weakens a little more, the heads of republics and with them certain heads of krays and oblasts will get together and simply abolish our federation, just as its present leaders abolished the Union. A new "Belovezhskaya Forest" can be found in Russia. There is a technical question: Where, in what precise spot, is the new Russian Foros?

President Yeltsin is in the habit of taking a short time-out before important decisions. Maybe the president should not leave Moscow in the immediate future. The cards have been dealt, the stakes are known, and the game has begun in earnest. I hope that some different, reassuring scenario No. 6 is going to be written "on the fly."

Oppositionist Zyuganov on Social, Political Tensions

PM0911095792 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Nov 92 p 1,2

[Gennadiy Zyuganov article: "We Are in a Disaster Zone. Political Tension and Security Within Society"]

[Excerpts] There is a Security Council under the Russian Federation president. The public knows nothing about what basic tasks it is setting itself, and whether it has any idea of the country's political, economic, military, technological, and ecological security. The opposition leaders' attempts to clear up these questions even in general terms and put forward their own specific proposals are coming up against a brick wall.

At the same time, according to unofficial information, Council staffers are engaged in intensive work on various ways of introducing a state of emergency in the country, dissolving the Supreme Soviet and Congress of People's Deputies, banning some and suspending the activities of other political parties, and introducing direct presidential rule. You cannot help but notice that the corresponding psychosocial condition is being actively nurtured within society. The question of a state of emergency is being openly discussed in the mass media at home and abroad, and several extremist public organizations are being incited to make appeals to the president about introducing a state of emergency. A number of influential members of the government have in essence expressed similar opinions.

What reasons are there at the moment for introducing a state of emergency? There are no constitutional ones. There are also no natural disasters. True, the economy is in complete disarray and gangsterism is widespread, but this is the product of our government's own activities—which, of course, causes general dissatisfaction. Therefore, the only real threat that has arisen is to the unchecked absolute power in the hands of a narrow group of people—the president himself and his closest associates, literally 15 or so people, the most influential of which have become entrenched in administrative structures not stipulated by the Fundamental Law. But they have to pin the blame for this on the calendar (the additional presidential powers run out on 1 December) and on their inability to carry out their own promises to stabilize the economic situation before the end of the year. However, they prefer to regard any effort to raise the question of their own responsibility for the continuing deterioration in the situation as an attempt on the foundations of the constitutional system.

The president's illegal edict about the National Salvation Front and other opposition forces shows who really has set off down the road of illegal actions and a coup d'etat, who is spoiling the chance of constructive dialogue, and who will not accept the idea of peace and harmony in society.

August of last year proved that using force as a method to achieve stability has no future but leads to just the opposite result and accelerates the disintegration of the state and social organism. War is raging in five of the former union republics and has already arrived on Russia's borders.

Talk of support for presidential rule which the president and the acting prime minister allegedly secured from the regional leaders and the corps of directors must not mislead people. If last year's introduction of a state of emergency in the center gave separatism free reign in the provinces, the same thing is being repeated today, only the other way around. The president is acceding in advance to the regions' being transformed into independent principalities, encouraging the nomenklatura to privatize the largest industrial enterprises, and in exchange demanding a free hand in destroying the opposition and setting up his own absolute power in the center, although his power is essentially becoming titular in nature. This, objectively speaking, is the significance of the creation of the so-called "council of heads of state" and Gaydar's accords with the directors in Tolyatti. Their prototype last year was the "Novo-Ogarevo process," under whose cover the Union was destroyed. Introducing a state of emergency and presidential power will make Yeltsin's power no less illusory than Gorbachev's power between August and December of 1991, although outside appearances will be maintained.

Calculations that it is possible to rely on the people's support or at least on their friendly neutrality in the struggle with the opposition are so lacking in foundation that they are extremely dangerous. The absence of an appropriate social protest at the sharp fall in living standards for the majority of the population is still not evidence of mass support for the policy of the extortionate "reforms." The people's phenomenal patience only indicates that by Western "standards" society is conducting itself in an obviously "inappropriate" manner. Our social system's anomalous nature shows up, for example, in the fact that despite all the forecasts and stereotypes which are "normal" for the West, enterprises (even including scientific research institutes) are not firing superfluous workers but preferring to sink as collective structures. Enterprises responded to price liberalization in a completely different manner than in a liberal economy. Millions of Communists, even those who joined the party for pragmatic reasons, refused, despite the forecasts, to leave it even when this began to damage them. All this fits in with the genotype of the "traditional society" which is well known to science (but not to the present regime's politicians) and which differs completely from society in Western civilization. Traditional societies are characterized by their own mechanisms for reproducing social relations, maintaining viability, and reacting to external influence which are unlike Western ones. The writer Ivan Vasilyev gives a convincing description of some of them in the essay "Occupation-2" (see SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 October 1992). But Soviet society as a whole is an equation with

many unknowns, and to attempt to rule it, even more to reform it, in line with Western ideas is a gross violation of the elementary rules of security within society.

For example, no one knows exactly according to which "pattern" social tension is today building up in central Russia, in its large and small cities, workers' settlements and villages, and in what ways and under what circumstances this tension will begin to be released. The peasants are already laughing, I. Vasilyev warns; the ruling circles do not understand this warning and are taking this laughter for a lack of social tension and as carte blanche for further irresponsible experiments in both the city and the countryside.

In some kind of despairing self-deception, purely technical problems are substituted for fundamental issues while even clear dangers are completely ignored. For example, a ban has been placed on the question: What significance does the transformation of land into a commodity have for Russia? Instead of this, we have a discussion of how to overcome "opposition to the bureaucracy," whether to use vouchers in the privatization of the land and so forth. Evidence of a monstrous misunderstanding of the question as a whole is the intention to resolve it using a strictly Western method—a simple "democratic" majority of votes of city dwellers who have been well and truly out of touch with the land for a long time. In the meantime, we are dealing with an exceptionally explosive problem rooted deeply in history, which not only threatens a mere conflict of economic interests but a religious war. Here, Western democracy (one man—one vote) is as inappropriate as pouring gasoline on a fire. Not "all citizens" have the right to resolve this question—only the peasants who work directly on the land.

At the same time, in other cases where democracy is of vital necessity, the government suddenly betrays democratic principles. The authorities become more and more deaf and hostile to any attempt at dialogue and criticism of its actions: The hand of the "Red-Browns" is seen behind all this. The policy of using force against the opposition's ideological and organizational structures—the ban on the CPSU, the attempt to ban the National Salvation Front, the threat to dissolve the soviets—deprives society of vitally important mechanisms for a peaceful and civilized solution to contradictions and conflicts. Even by Western standards this is a route to an uncontrollable social explosion.

A systems analysis made by a group of highly qualified specialists of the trends in the development of armed conflicts on the USSR's territory from 1985 to the present testifies that the situation in the country has unfortunately gotten to a stage where weapons of mass destruction could be used.

At the same time, contrary to popular perception, the availability of various types of weapons does not decrease, but, on the contrary, increases when their firepower passes a certain point. Agents which are more terrible (nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological ones) are turning out to be more available than conventional types of weapons (firearms, artillery, and armored vehicles). Our cities are literally crammed full of facilities providing virtually unlimited and easy opportunities for conducting modern nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological warfare.

We have already learned the meaning of a case of de facto unintentional global usage of a nuclear weapon—the Chernobyl disaster. Another example of so far unintentional usage of a chemical weapon—albeit this time in the context of an armed conflict—was the discharge of transformer oil into the Dniester during the bombardment of Dubossary hydroelectric power station. The press reported this calmly, ignorant of the fact that transformer oil is a source for the formation of dioxins—the most dangerous of modern toxic and mutagenic substances; and in the opinion of several chemists transformer oil is a dioxin.

The discharge of a total of 2.3 kilograms of dioxin (7,000 lethal doses) during the explosion at the chemical plant in Sevezo (Italy) in 1976 led to serious contamination over an area of 18 square kilometers and the evacuation of thousands of people. They have not succeeded in decontaminating the locality in 15 years. But at Dubossary about 100 tonnes of oil, or 300 million lethal doses, got into the environment!

With the present tension and way of thinking within society, each production accident is carefully interpreted from the point of view of possibly creating a similar situation in order to conduct a political struggle. Today any extremist group which has its back to the wall, guided by motives of social, national, religious etc. vengeance, is capable of transforming their opponents' place of habitation into a disaster zone.

Then strict emergency measures are all the more necessary!—people say to me by way of an objection. But what such objections demonstrate is nothing other than "old thinking"—inflexible, limited, and not taking into consideration the significant progress made both in technology and the public's conscience. [passage omitted]

One would think, for example, that prostitution could not be a factor with regard to the chemical and nuclear danger. It emerges that it can play the role of a destabilizing element of general significance, of an element which damages the conscience and behavior of Russians, all the more of Tatar (and in general of Muslim) fathers, and it is therefore not fortuitous that it figures in the protests of the patriotic movements' influential leaders. When his daughter who has been drawn into prostitution and drug addiction dies from AIDS, a father will naturally, especially if he is a nuclear power station or chemical plant engineer, pose a danger as a psychologically damaged worker or even more likely as a terrorist with a grudge. However, a father of the "opposite" type will also be a factor for actions of this same tendency.

This fact will serve as a signal to him that everything really is for sale and there are no limits.

Lack of social protection plays a similarly destructive role. The psychology of the Soviet jobless is not precisely known to science. But a preliminary analysis shows that in certain circumstances some of them are prepared to take revenge on society—including scientific workers from chemical and bacteriological laboratories who have been kicked out to rot. With planned unemployment of 20-30 million people, this potentially means almost 1 million people taking revenge. To discount all of this is a madness which cannot be justified. We need to take brave steps toward resolving the main problem of guaranteeing security today, of eliminating social tension, which otherwise threatens to be take unpredictable forms. Before it is too late, the political leaders, especially the leaders of the power structures, must give up their illusions about the possibility of simple, straightforward solutions, enter into dialogue and negotiations with opposition movements, and meet with academic specialists on complex security.

There is still time to take a number of concrete steps to bring society together and eliminate the growing tension. This government is doomed and to hold on to it means to worsen a situation which is already critical. It is high time to end the litigation in the Constitutional Court where the president's representatives are attempting to prove that all of them and their patrons were members of a criminal organization. The prisoners in "Matrosskaya Tishina" should be released along with other political prisoners. We should shout at the top of our voices about the civil rights and dignity of the 30 million of our compatriots who are now resident in the sovereign states. The state should take measures to protect science and culture, the elderly, and children. And finally the question of information policy in the country should be examined. All of us should come down together on crime and corruption.

The idea of a "roundtable" came to fruition a long time ago. In the present circumstances the ambitions of a narrow circle of people who are preventing its implementation and pushing us toward extremism are simply suicidal.

Russian National Council To Probe Sterligov Remarks

OW0611132692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1232 GMT 06 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of the National Salvation Front (NSF) have accused General Aleksandr Sterligov, one of the leaders of the Russian National Council (RNC), of attempting to split the ranks of the united right- and left-wing oppositions. At a Thursday press conference by the parliamentary opposition bloc Russian Unity, RNC presidium member Irina Shadrina said that the general's recent statements about the possibility of cooperating with the Russian president, on the forming of a new parliament with Civic Union, and regarding relations with the NSF "departed significantly from the spirit and letter of the program of the Council." In a conversation with an INTERFAX correspondent, Shadrina noted that Sterligov's actions would be examined at a session of the RNC's Duma (parliament) on 14 November, and that action would be taken in response, up to and including his ejection from the Council.

NSF leader Ilya Konstantinov said at a press conference that regardless of Yeltsin's decree dissolving the organizing committee of the Front, "the NSF will continue work and will not alienate the support of its fellow citizens." The ranks of the NSF, according to Konstantinov, continue to grow stronger. Groups of supporters already exist in 262 cities in Russia and 11 republics of the former USSR. NSF regional committees have been established in ten regions of Moscow.

Aksyuchits Asks Court To Rule on Yeltsin Powers

MK0711130392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Nov 92 p 2

["NG" report; "Aksyuchits Asks Constitutional Court"—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] "The president's proposal on postponing the convening of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies can signify only an attempt to illegally usurp emergency powers for an indefinite period," Russian People's Deputy Viktor Aksyuchits believes. He has asked the Russian Constitutional Court to give its decision on the following points: Is the president entitled personally or with the help of some kind of organs (such as the Council of Heads of Republics) to dissolve or suspend the activity of the Congress and Supreme Soviet;

Is the creation of the Council of Heads of Russian Federation Republics under the president constitutional (if so, what are the limits of its powers);

What about the president's additional powers granted by the Congress until 1 December 1992 if the Congress for one reason or another is not convened at the beginning of this December?

In Aksyuchits' opinion, "until such time as another compact abolishes the fundamental law and dissolves the state, the Constitutional Court must defend the constitution and Russia."

Yakovlev Sees No Danger of Coup Against Yeltsin

LD0611141792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 6 Nov—A.N. Yakovlev, who has arrived in Israel at the invitation of local universities, has stated that he does not agree with the forecasts about

the possible removal of President B.N. Yeltsin from power. "Yeltsin will remain president of Russia until the end of his mandate," Aleksandr Nikolayevich stated, replying to questions put by journalists in Jerusalem.

The guest from Moscow refuted the assertions that nuclear weapons will reach Iran via the Muslim states of the former Union. In an interview in the Russian-language weekly VESTI published today, A. N. Yakovlev stated that threats of a new coup in Russia do not exist. "Other dangers exist, no less serious ones—for example from the nationalist and fascist forces—but there will not be a coup," he added.

Yakovlev ruled out the possibility of M.S. Gorbachev's returning to political activity. To the question of how he assesses the Gorbachev-Yeltsin conflict, Yakovlev replied: "I think that it was a mistake on Gorbachev's part not to appear at the Constitutional Court. Active criticism of the present government did not look very ethical either. But, in my view, nor was it correct to refuse Gorbachev a visa. How will this conflict end? It will end and there will be no consequences. It will be resolved and forgotten."

Believes Russia on 'Right Path'

LD0611195192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow November 6 TASS—"No matter what assessments people make, I'm sure Russia has embarked on the right path," Aleksandr Yakovlev, chief ideologue of perestroyka, said.

In an interview with the newspaper VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA (EVENING MOSCOW) published on Friday, Yakovlev said [if] "fortune favours us we will get out of the economic quagmire to achieve true happiness."

"The democratic path we have chosen is not a whim or luxury. Radical transformation of our society is an imperative, it is inevitable," Yakovlev said.

Yakovlev described the situation in Russia as alarming. "I think it won't change within a year. If we have enough patience, we will make a breakthrough towards free enterprise. If not, we will have to go back to barracks," Yakovlev said.

"Despite all beneficial changes of the last seven years we should not deceive ourselves: There is no true and firm democracy (in Russia) yet. The drama of our development in these years is that political democracy is not backed up by economic freedoms. Let's hope this drama will not become a tragedy," Yakovlev said.

Opposition Forces Demonstrate To Mark 7 Nov

Firing Squad Urged for Grachev

OW0711141792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The banned National Salvation Front, the Russian Communist Party, the Officers Union and a few other pro-Communist organizations have held a rally on Moscow's Manezhnaya Square to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Russia's October revolution.

Communist leader Viktor Anpilov urged Armymen to refuse to swear allegiance to President Yeltsin and demanded that the country's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev face a firing squad for state treason. Upon suggestion from Igor Malyarov of the Young Communist Union, the rally decided to advise the President and national Parliament the forthcoming congress of people's deputies offered them the last chance to restore justice by legitimate means. The rally demanded that the Congress consider moves to unseat the President and his whole Cabinet, reject presidency as such and elect an interim head of state. In addition, the rally called on the country's Constitutional Court to make it impossible for the reactionary quarters to jeer at Communists. The rally called for an end to what it described as anti-popular reforms, municipal elections in constituencies formed on the industrial basis, the release of the August conspirators and the reestablishment of the Soviet Union.

According to police estimates, the rally brought together some 20,000 citizens. Many carried the red flags of the Soviet Union and posters with predominantly insulting anti-government inscriptions. There were many anti-Semitic inscriptions, too.

The rally's organizers had hoped to bring as many as 100,000 people to the Manezhnaya square.

[Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1100 GMT on 7 November carries the following video report by correspondent A. Kondulukov during its regularly scheduled "Vesti" newscast: "The events for which the neo-Bolsheviks had prepared for so long have taken place. About 20,000 demonstrators gathered today by the Lenin monument in October Square. The meeting to mark the anniversary of the October revolution was organized by the Working Russia movement, the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik), and the Leninist Komsomol. All of them are united with the single aim of overthrowing Yeltsin's government. The communists do not want Yeltsin, Gaydar, vouchers, or private land ownership. They chant: Yeltsin, depart! They demand that the Union be restored and that the government be subordinated to workers' soviets. The revolution continues, the neocommunists claim, and call people to the struggle.

["At the meeting today, Anpilov, a leader of the neocommunists, announced the creation of the Musa Dzhalil International Brigade, which will include representatives of various nationalities, including Arabs, Palestinians, Cubans, and Turks. Anpilov says the International Brigade will be a powerful fist in the struggle against the existing regime.

["People at the meeting were being enrolled into the Working Russia movement, the Komsomol, and people's volunteer squads. There will be training among the young and healthy in hand-to-hand combat. After a 20-minute meeting, the demonstrators set off for Manezh Square, singing songs and chanting: Put the Yeltsin gang on trial. Certain people with revolutionary ecstasy tore the Russian flag to shreds. The demonstrators called them provocateurs and expelled them from the column."]

Rallies by Communists Reported

LD0711104292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Rallies by supporters of the Communist idea to mark the 75th anniversary of the October coup each brought together a few hundred people in Vladivostok, Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Chita, and Krasnoyarsk. Most of the participants, ITAR-TASS points out, were elderly.

A fair opened in Tyumen today. The town authorities took no part in the organization of demonstrations or rallies.

In Moscow, a Communist demonstration and a rally in Manezh Square were sanctioned, as were a civic requiem and prayers for the victims of the Civil War in Lubyanka Square, and beside the foundation stone of the Church of Christ the Savior.

The adherents of opposing political views are marking the anniversary of the October coup with separate demonstrations in St. Petersburg.

In the town of Pushkin, local monarchists have assembled a scientific conference devoted to the 75th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. That national tragedy, was, they think, initiated by the October coup of 1917.

Other Demonstrations

LD0811021792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Nov 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Rallies and street marches held in Russian towns today were not crowded, according to ITAR-TASS. Demonstrations held in Belgorod, Penza, Izhevsk, and Smolensk were not so much Communist as antigovernment. The diversity of positions during today's events was as great as ever. Thus, in Yaroslavl, Democratic Russia supporters marked the day of remembrance of innocent victims of the revolution. Speakers at a Nizhniy Novgorod rally stressed that the October revolution is the most important page in the history of our homeland. In Orenburg, pensioners collected money for communists using collection boxes with the inscription: Collection for funds of Russian Communist Workers' Party. In the same town, Democratic Russia activists organized the collection of signatures in favor of holding a referendum on private property. Incidentally, today alone the Moscow headquarters for collecting signatures received over 100,000 signatures. Altogether, almost 800,000 people have spoken in favor of a referendum in Russia.

Lubyanka Rally Mourns Victims of Bolsheviks

OW0711141492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A few hundred have rallied to the Solovetskiy rock on the Lubyanka Square of Moscow to commemorate all the victims of the Bolshevik revolution. The Solovetskiy rock was brought to Moscow last year from the Solovetskiy islands of the White Sea where the country's first camp for political prisoners was established under Soviet rule. A member of the Russian Parliament Christian-Democratic leader Viktor Aksyuchits feels November 7 is to be regarded exclusively as a day of national mourning. He says the October revolution has inflicted so much sorrow on this country that it would be sacrilegious to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

The rally made no attempt to call for revenge. People who took the floor on behalf of various political parties and the Cossacks, called for an end to what they described as continuous state of civil war in Russia.

Ministers of the Russian Orthodox Church conducted a memorial service, after which a cross-bearing procession headed for a chapel that marks the place where Moscow's Savior's Cathedral used to stand before its demolition. A special service was held at the chapel.

Security Service Documents on POW's Declassified

LD0811095492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] At the Russian state military archives, documents from the years 1918-1960, including material from the main directorates and units of the VChK [All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counterrevolution and Sabotage, 1917-1922], OGPU [United State Political Administration at the Council of People's Commissars, 1922-1934], NKVD [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, 1917-1946], and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] of the USSR, have now been declassified. They include escort troop documents from the period of the Great Fatherland War and the early postwar years. In particular, they contain lists of foreign prisoners of war.

Reports on Developments in Ossetia

Yeltsin Says Area Quiet

OW0911121392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The fact that Russia has quickly, in fact over two days, taken the situation in the Ossetian-Ingush stand-off under control will restrain those who've planned new conflicts, President Yeltsin told the IF [INTERFAX] special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov at the airport before flying off to London on Monday.

The President is convinced that Russia's prompt reaction to the conflict will help to head off similar troubles elsewhere. Mr. Yeltsin described the week-end in Ossetia as quiet.

He disclosed that last Sunday he'd discussed the matter with the RF [Russian Federation] defence, interior, and security ministers, and vice-premier Georgiy Khizha, North Ossetia's interim administration chief. "We have decided—he said—that the measures adopted to keep the situation in hand were sufficient. We'll spare no further effort to prevent the conflict from developing",—Mr. Yeltsin stressed.

On the upcoming talks in Britain, he voiced the intention "to bring up the issue on the plight of ethnic Russians in the Baltic countries, and, more than that, insist on its discussion in the UN Security Council".

On the Congress of RF People's Deputies to be held early next month, the President stressed the need "to stop talking about putting the Congress off". "We should think how to avoid internal wrangling that all the world could see"—Mr. Yeltsin emphasized.

The acting RF Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar has declared in a brief interview with IF that "speculations about a possible cabinet reshuffle have no effect on his business schedule". In his words, the government is now facing the tasks to be accomplished before the start of the Congress of People's Deputies.

One task, Mr. Gaydar said, is to complete work on a program of priorities for 1993. Another is to correct the external economic regulation mechanism, and still other is to finally draft a package of documents on major property privatization. "Our agenda is too busy to engage in all sorts of guesswork on how stable the government is"—the acting Premier remarked.

Shakhray Reportedly Replaces Khizha

LD0911135192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1115 GMT 9 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Nov—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from well-informed sources that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, before departing for London, signed a decree relieving Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha of his duties as head of the temporary administration of North Ossetia and appointing Sergey Shakhray to the position.

Georgiy Khizha himself says that he has no knowledge of the president's decree. At the same time, he has confirmed that there had been a previous discussion in which it was said that with the appearance in the government of an official supervising ethnic issues, the duties of the head of the temporary administration of North Ossetia would be handed over to him. As is known, Sergey Shakhray was recently appointed to the post of chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Ethnic Policy.

Khizha Wants Curfew in North Ossetia

LD0811222892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Interview with Georgiy Khizha, head of provisional administration of Republic of North Ossetia, by anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev on 8 November; live or recorded—from the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kiselev] Georgiy Stepanovich, is there a realistic threat of this conflict erupting into a Caucasus war, of which so much has been said and written?

[Khizha] Any conflict, military conflict, carries the danger of continuation, especially when there are dead on both sides. It is precisely my task to avert that.

[Kiselev] What do you think is most important in order to avert that danger?

[Khizha] I think that the most important thing today is to introduce normal government there and a straightforward curfew, and confiscate weapons.

[Kiselev] How do you view the position taken by Chechnya, which has also led to conflicting opinions in the press?

[Khizha] I think that the president of Chechnya, General Dudayev, who is a military man, is sufficiently well educated to understand that any incitement to fighting in an area in the immediate vicinity of Chechnya is pointless and useless. I think that there will be sufficient good sense in Chechnya not to inflame the situation in Ossetia.

[Kiselev] There has been considerable criticism by the Russian press of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples. What is your opinion on that?

[Khizha] I have not seen any involvement by the Confederation so far, and all its utterances and actions have, I think, been fairly moderate.

[Kiselev] One more question that might seem complicated, but still. Both here and abroad, many people have recently been writing that Russia is not taking an impartial line and, supposedly, is leaning toward the Ossetian side in this conflict.

[Khizha] I don't think that is so. Let me tell you that the passions raging on both sides are, of course, exaggerated. A conflict was under way when we arrived there. There had already been armed clashes, which could have turned into a still bigger conflagration. All our units there were surrounded by people demanding weapons. And those weapons could have been seized within a few hours, after which all this would have assumed much greater proportions. Our military, army, units did not enter a single village or town. Only Interior Ministry troops did that. For three days we held non-stop talks with both sides to get a cease-fire and withdrawal by armed units. It was only on 4 November that we were able to agree, and then during the night a rapid withdrawal began, with Interior Ministry troops coming in. On the whole, all these security and disengagement operations were conducted in the northern part, where the fighting had been heaviest. That's what happened. I have been in contact with Ingush representatives virtually every day and on dozens of occasions ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] There has been criticism of you for supposedly avoiding them.

[Khizha] Not so. I have had dozens of telephone conversations, and on 4 November, when stability finally began to return, I signed an agreement with a large group, appointed my own representatives in Ingushetiya, and they are now in my opinion exerting a very beneficial influence on events.

[Kiselev] Tell me, how did it turn out that you, an expert in an entirely different area as far as I recall, are now more or less the Russian government's fire-fighter in the North Caucasus?

[Khizha] I don't really know. I am not the person to ask about that. After I had already arrived the presidential decree came out, and I had to ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] And the final question, Georgiy Stepanovich. In addition to the situation in the North Caucasus, a major theme in this week's program is the political battle in progress over the reforms, meaning in particular the stand-off between the executive and legislature. With a vice premier of Russia here in our studio, I can't help asking you about something entirely different: What is your view of the situation and will the government survive? Or will it, or some members of it, have to resign?

[Khizha] I am absolutely convinced that the reform will survive. I don't know if the government will survive or not, it's not up to me to speculate about that here. But I am absolutely convinced that the economic reform will proceed—and it has to become more effective and continue at less cost to the people and the country. I don't know of any groupings, especially among industrialists and in industry, which I know well, who would act against the reform. On the contrary, all these people are now trying to make the reforms effective and productive. Not destructive, but productive in a way that will allow the country to move forward to a life rather better than the one it has now.

Grachev Wants To 'Neutralize' Combatants

PM0611192392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Nov 92 p 1

[Interview with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, by correspondent Vasiliy Fatigarov in North Ossetia; date not given: "Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister: 'We Will Carry Out the Russian President's Edict'"]

[Text] A conference of Russian Federation ministers—of defense, internal affairs, and security—took place 5 November in Vladikavkaz and discussed problems of restoring law and order and security for citizens in the area of the state of emergency. Our correspondent, Vasiliy Fatigarov, met with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, at the operational headquarters of the Russian troops in North Ossetia.

[Fatigarov] Comrade Army General, did you come to Vladikavkaz with the aim of holding on-the-spot talks with North Ossetian leaders?

[Grachev] Not at all. If the sides so wish, I am ready to meet simultaneously with representatives of both Ingushetiya and Ossetia in order to show that the Russian defense minister treats these peoples identically. I came here with the Russian Federation security and internal affairs ministers with a clear aim. First, to ascertain the situation for myself, because reports from various sources are, to put it mildly, not exactly identical and sometimes contradictory too. Second, to look into the actions of Russian units and internal troops: What tasks they have set, how they are fulfilling them, what the results are. Third, to try once again to call the leaderships of Ossetia and Ingushetiya to peace talks. Last, the fourth task is to adopt jointly a decision on blockading nationalist bands from both sides and disarming them.

[Fatigarov] Two days ago, when I was in Nazran, I had to listen to many reproaches from Ingush people that Russian troops are supporting the Ossetian side....

[Grachev] I have just had a discussion with General Ruslan Aushev on this subject. Russian troops are indeed located on North Ossetian territory, although there are changes in their position. Thus, a paratroop regiment has blockaded Chermen from the east, and internal troops have full control of this settlement and are now carrying out work to confiscate weapons from illegal formations.

And, so that there are no reproaches directed at the Russian military to the effect that they are helping North Ossetian armed formations, I proposed to bring in exactly the same grouping of troops to Ingush territory. The security and internal affairs ministers agreed with this proposal in principle. After all, Russian troops are

participating only in peacekeeping actions, while Russian Federation internal troops are engaged in destroying bandit formations. But this proposal did not meet with the Ingush side's support. Doubt is creeping in that Ingushetiya still has its own equipment and armed formation on its territory.

[Fatigarov] Of course it has. On the road to Nazran I saw with my own eyes Ingush armored personnel carriers with Muslim symbols on the side.

[Grachev] Well, people here are trying to persuade us otherwise. Evidently there is something bigger behind this, and it possibly has more to do with some kind of collaboration between Ingush and Chechen formations. True, this is strictly my personal opinion.

[Fatigarov] So what kind of decision have you reached?

[Grachev] It is too early to talk of a solution. There is a proposal for a solution. What is needed is a real introduction of troops for peacekeeping purposes into populated areas where the need arises, while the internal troops neutralize the intransigents there so that they cannot repeat the tragedy of 31 October. It is the Russian state's territory here, and I have come here in order to carry out the Russian president's edict precisely. The measures indicated in it are already being applied and will be continue to be applied. The arrival of another paratroop regiment is scheduled for 6 November. If the situation does not stabilize, the introduction of several more Russian troop units, primarily internal troops, is envisioned.

Troops Control Prigorodnyy District

OW0711164792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press service of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies, all villages in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy District are today controlled by Russian troops acting in contact with North Ossetian armed detachments. There have nevertheless been short outbursts of fire near some of the villages. Thirty Ingushes, including wounded, children, and pregnant women, have today left by air from Vladikavkaz to Krasnodar. There was another exchange of hostages in the village of Chmi.

Two aeroplanes have arrived in Makhachkala from Moscow bringing a load of humanitarian aid for the Ingush Republic, which includes medicines, surgical and blood transfusion equipment, bandages, 200,000 disposable syringes, and two medical minibuses. The aid is accompanied by 10 doctors.

Hostage Exchange Said Complete

LD0811160792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] According to the special commission of the Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia on the exchange of hostages, 880 Ingushes and 333 Ossetians were released by noon today. The situation is complicated by the parties' mutual distrust.

Committee Opposes Russian Troop Presence

OW0711164892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ingushetiya's Emergency Committee utterly opposes the sending of Russian army and interior units to this republic for ensuring the observance of the state of emergency regime in accordance with the Russian president's decision, Vakha Yevloyev, a member of the Emergency Committee, told IF [INTERFAX] on Saturday. Yevloyev believes that such a move will cause the Ingush nationals to start combat operations against the Russian army.

Ingush representatives of the Prigorodnyy region have sent a telegram from Nazran, the administrative center of Ingushetiya, to the chairman of the North Ossetian parliament Akhsarbek Galazov, stating that as long as Ingush women keep standing on their feet they will defend their homeland and the right-bank section of Vladikavkaz.

Meanwhile, the attitude to Cossacks in the Sunzhen region of Ingushetiya has sharply deteriorated. Acting ataman of the Terek Cossack Army, Vladimir Nikitin, told IF that it was due to rumors alleging that Cossacks had fought on the side of the Ossetians during combat operations in the Prigorodnyy region. Nikitin said that during the combat operations in that region Cossacks only safeguarded different facilities.

North Ossetian Leader Briefs Press

OW0711041192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the North Ossetian Parliament Akhsabek Galazov declared that in the near future there could be no discussion of the return of Ingush nationals to their places of residence in the republic's Prigorodnyy region. Appearing Friday at a press conference in Vladikavkaz, he stressed that "the person who tries to realize this concept will be responsible for new casualties." He said that the sixth article of the law on rehabilitating repressed peoples, whose stipulations include the territorial rehabilitation of Ingush nationals, was unsound from a political standpoint and absurd from a legal one. (In 1944 the Ingush were removed from

the territory of the Prigorodnyy region, where they lived.) Galazov believes the law led to the war between Ossetians and Ingush nationals.

"We need to dismiss the matter of the Prigorodnyy region, which is a territory of North Ossetia, since no one but the people of North Ossetia have the right to manage the territory," said Galazov.

He viewed the developments as "aggression from Ingush nationalist-extremists against North Ossetia," adding that "the responsibility for the events in the Prigorodnyy region and for their consequences lies entirely on the shoulders of the Ingush leaders." He is convinced that if "they don't grow wiser in Ingushetiya there will be a major Caucasian war, which will draw in many nations." Galazov feels this war should be nipped in the bud.

Sees Russian Media Slander

LD0811105992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, sent a letter on 7 November to Russian Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, in which he appeals to him to take resolute measures against the Russian Radio and Television Company. Over to our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov for details.

[Osipov] Galazov's message, which was broadcast on Ossetian Television, says that the information being supplied by television and radio contradicts the president's decree on introducing the state of emergency on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. In his letter, Galazov accuses Russia's radio and television of representing the developments in the conflict zone in a deliberately slanderous manner. [passage omitted]

Witnesses who have arrived in Nazran report that conditions have arisen which make the involvement of Cossacks in the conflict possible. In this connection Dmitriy Ivanov, a cornet [khorunzhiy] of the Terek Cossack host, appealed to the leaders of the North Caucasian Cossacks to refrain from becoming involved in the conflict between the Ingushis and Ossetians.

Minister Urges Disarming Illegal Groups

LD0711093192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0923 GMT 7 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz November 7—"I believe it is necessary to disarm all illegal armed formations in North Ossetia in the near future, except official structures including the Ossetian national guards and units of the Interior Ministry and Ministry of Security," Sergey Khetagurov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of North Ossetia, told ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

"Unless it is done, criminal elements may launch looting and roberries in the republic under the pretext of just attempts to protect security and territorial integrity of the republic," he said.

However, Khetagurov said that under the present circumstances they could not demand that the population fully surrender its weapons. Khetagurov assumed that detachments of self-dedence could operate in regions and settlements adding that they should be under control.

Khetagurov said he hoped for conscientiousness and wisdom of all those concerned, including extremist Ingush leaders. "If they do not come to their senses, the bloodshed may start anew and the fire will spread to the whole Caucasus," Khetagurov said. He believes that the remaining hotbeds of tension in Prigorodnyy region should be eliminated by force.

Touching upon the the possibilities for Ingush families to return home, Khetagurov said that a lot would depend on the scale of tragic aftermaths caused by the invasion of Ingush armed formations. He said that much would depend here not on the authorities, but on the Ossetian population. "It will take us a long time to heal our wounds," Khetagurov said adding that it was early yet to make forecasts for the Ingush people which used to live in North Ossetia.

Conference Declares 'Partial Mobilization' in Chechnya

MK0711132992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Nov 92 p 3

[By Dmitriy Zhdannikov; from the "NEGA reports" rubric]

[Text] A conference of prefects of all rayons, the National Security Service, the Security Ministry, and the Civil Defense Ministry held in Groznyy has adopted a decision on partial mobilization. A directive has been issued to deploy special means of communication in all regions of Chechnya, and a round-the-clock headquarters is operating in Groznyy where information about the situation on the border is received, as well as information about the movements and intentions of Russian troops. The headquarters is headed by General Shakhabov.

The formation of this headquarters is connected, the Chechen side claims, with actually existing aggression on the part of the Russian side.

It was announced at the conference that according to operational data from Chechen intelligence, several tens of millions of rubles have secretly been brought into the republic in order to organize attacks on military units.

Following an explosion at a munitions dump on the outskirts of Groznyy 6 November (in Chechnya this is thought to be an act of sabotage by the Russian special

services), a Russian aircraft appeared over the spot, presumably a reconnaissance aircraft. "For the first time since the withdrawal of Russian troops," Chechen Republic Information Minister Movladi Udugov says, "the Russian Air Force is violating sovereign Chechnya's borders."

"All these actions leave no doubt that the Russian leadership has a plan to resolve the Chechen issue in a strong-arm manner," Udugov said. "On the threshold of an intensification of the power struggle in Moscow, it would be advantageous to the Russian leadership to have a hotbed of political tension to which public attention can be directed," the conference in Groznyy said.

The Chechen side has stated that it is in possession of documents and video material proving that the Russian Army has used chemical weapons and flamethrowers in the conflict with the Ingush.

Central Bank Head Wants Easing of Monetary Policy

LD0611174192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1644 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Ryabov]

[Text] Moscow November 6 TASS—"The mechanical use of modernist Western approaches, which are expressed in the tough monetary policy and do not take into account Russian historical peculiarities, is no good for the Russian economy. Both the Central Bank and the government must make conclusions in this connection on the eve of the People's Deputies Congress," Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko told ITAR-TASS today.

"We too quickly began to believe in the power of the tough credit-monetary policy, which determines the current reform stage," Gerashchenko noted in an exclusive interview.

"At the same time, we forgot about certain structural disproportions, which were present in the price mechanism, the industry and the entire economy of the former Soviet Union." If the government remains adherent to the tough course in the financial sphere the year 1993 "will not be easier than 1992".

A quick decision on speeding up payments between the republics and newly-formed states is a major problem the bank is facing, stressed the official. He assured the work to search for cardinal solutions to the problem is underway.

Speaking on his Austrian visit to begin on Saturday, Gerashchenko said in Vienna he will take part in a seminar to discuss prospects for new West European investments in the former Soviet Republics. The Russian Central Bank head will tell the seminar about his analysis of the Russian current economic situations and forecasts for 1993.

Ruble Hits New Low at R399 to U.S. Dollar

PM0611142592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Nov 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "More Does Not Mean Better"]

[Text] The exchange rate of the dollar has once again increased. At the latest sales, held yesterday on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange [MICE] the dollar exchange rate was 399.0 rubles [R], which is R3 more than the former indicator. Experts note that the logical process of the ruble's inflationary devaluation is continuing on the currency markets. According to MICE Information Service statistics, 48 banks took part in trading.

The volume of trading dropped to $40.46 million. Initial demand ($41.67) continues to outstrip supply ($35.44), and this predetermines the rise of the dollar rate.

Ruble Equality Sought in Currency Exchange Steps

PM0611140392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Ivan Zhagel report: "Ruble To Have Equal Standing With Foreign Currency"]

[Text] It has already been reported that Russian President B. Yeltsin has signed an edict instructing the Central Bank to elaborate a new procedure for foreign currency trading on the republic's territory.

Commenting on the document for IZVESTIYA, D. Tulin, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, noted that for all intents and purposes the edict abolishes the president's previous directive proposing a complete ban on the use [khozhdeniye] of foreign currency before 1 July. Regrettably, the conditions for this have so far not been created.

As for further action by the Central Bank to regulate foreign currency trading, Tulin said that documents are currently being drawn up which will compel all foreign currency stores to trade in rubles too. That is, the ruble is being given equal rights alongside foreign currency. Most probably the new rules will be ratified within two weeks.

Every foreign currency store will be entitled to set independently the rate at which it calculates prices in rubles. And it can be assumed that this rate will not be advantageous for holders of rubles, since trading organizations will be trying to gain advance compensation for the high-inflation risk of conducting operations in Russian currency.

It is even possible that certain foreign currency stores will artificially hike their exchange rate so as to deter ruble customers. Nonetheless, Tulin believes that setting the rate by directive or an all-out ban on the use of foreign currency would lead at present to the closure of hundreds of trading outlets and even to the complete end

of foreign currency trading. Such tough measures would only be justified if the ruble were to stabilize—which will be dependent on an overall improvement in the credit and monetary system in the republic.

Measures To Curb Rise in Retail Bread Prices

PM0611163592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Nov 92 p 1

[Russian Federation Government Press Center report: "What Measures Federal Power Will Take To Curb Growth in Retail Bread Prices"]

[Text] For the purposes of stabilizing the economy of the agro-industrial complex and lowering the free retail prices of basic foodstuffs, including bread and bread products, the Russian Federation Government intends to provide support for agricultural commodity producers. All land users will be compensated out of the republic budget for expenditure on reclamation work and for the costs of fuels and lubricants, natural gas, other kinds of fuel, and agricultural equipment supplied on account of produce surrendered over and above the volumes of obligatory deliveries. Enterprises and organizations in the agro-industrial complex are being granted preferential credits and allocated funds to maintain the social infrastructure and for capital investments.

In all, it is proposed to channel subsidies totaling approximately 270 billion rubles [R] to the agro-industrial complex and to peasant (private) farms in 1992.

By decision of the government, the prices of grain of the 1992 harvest purchased by the state must stand at R11,000 a tonne, i.e. 23 times higher than last year's level. If grain is sold to farms over and above the prescribed volumes of obligatory deliveries, these prices may be increased a further 20 percent. The adopted purchase prices for grain of this year's harvest ensure profitability of more than 300 percent for Russian grain growers and predetermine an appreciable increase in the retail prices of bread, which have ended up substantially higher than in other CIS countries.

As is known, Russia does not meet its needs for grain out of its own production and is forced to import. To reduce consumers' expenditure, the Prices Committee under the Russian Ministry of Economics, the Russian Ministry of Finance, and the "Roskhlebprodukt" Joint-Stock Company have set a subsidy coefficient of 0.05 (instead of 0.2) to convert the contract price of grain into rubles, as a result of which 95 percent of its foreign trade value will be subsidized out of funds from the republic budget. At the same time preferential credit terms are being applied to the "Eksportkhleb" VAO [?All-Russian Joint-Stock Company], which buys grain abroad, and this reduces the share of overhead on grain imports by R3,000 per tonne. As a result, the cost of imported grain, despite the continuing low ruble exchange rate, will not exceed the prices of Russian grain products.

The present free retail price of one kg of rye bread stands at R31-32, and that of first- and second-grade wheat bread at R32-38, while top-grade wheat bread already costs R45-60.

The implementation of the additional measures recommended to local organs of executive power by the Russian Government—particularly to limit the profitability of bread-baking enterprises to 10-15 percent of the prime cost and to retain the absolute total of trade markups for trading organizations—will make it possible to reduce the retail prices of bread by an average of R5-6 per kg, or 12-18 percent.

The decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to reduce the rate of value-added tax from 28 percent to 10 percent effective 1 January 1993 will make it possible to set retail bread prices still lower by R4-5.

Special subsidies for the population, implemented at municipal level, will also have a certain amortizing effect.

The implementation of a package of measures will make it possible to halt a further increase in the cost of bread.

The average cost of wheat bread in greatest demand must not exceed R26-28 per kg.

Unemployment To Exceed 500,000 by Year's End

OW0711025392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the estimates of the Russian federal service of employment, the number of unemployed in Russia will exceed 500,000 people by the end of 1992. This number reached 367 thousand people at the end of September, simultaneously the number of vacancies reduced for 1.1 million to 341 thousands. [sentence as received]

According to the opinion of the Russian Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan, which he expressed in his interview with INTERFAX, these numbers appeared to be "lower than they had expected." The Minister pointed out that this can be connected with "a stage-by-stage" realization of reforms and with rendering financial assistance to the bankrupt enterprises.

The employment service reports that the main factors, influencing the growth of unemployment in Russia, are the reduction of working places due to the conversion, increase of flow of young people at the labor market, and the growth of the retired servicemen. Under this situation the federal employment service gives priority to the creation and development of system of professional re-training.

Privatization Termed Government's 'Last Chance'

MK0611131592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Nov 92 p 1

[Andrey Lekant report under the "Russia" rubric: "Auctions in November: Squeezing Them in Before the Congress. This Is the Government's Last Chance To Make the Reforms Irreversible and To Implement Its Program"]

[Text] Leaders of the Russian Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property] held a press conference Thursday [5 Nov]. Its topic was the development of the so-called "second stage of privatization" (check-based privatization). The main news was that the first auctions at which shares of enterprises being privatized will be sold are to be held in November. In particular, shares in the following will be sold: the Vladimir Transport Plant, the "Avtosvet" Plant, the Strunino Cotton Textile Combine, Perm's "Motorostroitel" Plant, Tosno's "Era" Production Association, Pikalevo's "Glinozem" Production Association, and a number of other enterprises. Goskomimushchestvo is promising to publish the full list in a week's time. In addition to industrial facilities, shares in Intourist hotels and in the "Berezka" hard currency stores, which are attractive prospects for investors, will also be offered for sale. It is planned to hold auctions in Vladimir Oblast, Perm, and also in Moscow and (or) St. Petersburg. But all holders of privatization checks who want to do so will be allowed to take part in the auctions irrespective of their place of residence. In general, free access for check investors to any regional enterprises has been proclaimed an important element of Goskomimushchestvo policy. Only for rural inhabitants will there be special rules. Shares in enterprises connected with the production of agricultural output must be circulated among them by means of closed subscription.

Regulations for the holding of check-based auctions are now being elaborated. But the mechanisms for the sales are already known. Potential investors sending in postal purchase applications will be divided into two categories. The first category will include people possessing only a small number of checks and with little grasp of the securities market. They will merely indicate what enterprises they would like to buy shares in without naming their price or specifying the number of shares. The second category will be major holders of checks who state the precise number of shares they require and the price at which they are prepared to buy them. Then the total number of shares submitted for sale will be divided by the number of checks and an average price will be established. If this proves to be below the price suiting applicants of the second type, they will join the list of purchasers. People in the first category are guaranteed their share purchase. The organizers' intention is that this procedure will primarily protect the interests of small investors—in conformity with the proclaimed "people's" nature of check-based privatization.

That the first auctions will be held as early as November (although payment for purchases will be made after the new year, in accordance with normative acts) is an extremely noteworthy event. There is the very obvious aim of making privatization checks more attractive in the population's eyes. Of increasing their weight. And at least of accelerating their issue. So far only 13 percent of people in Russia have bothered to collect what is due to them (25 percent in Samara Oblast and 17 percent in Moscow, for instance). Moreover, it is absolutely appropriate to increase the value of the checks (at the Russian Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange auctions on 3 November they were commanding 4,550 rubles [R]). Let this be not very advantageous for future big investors who are buying up and accumulating checks: The current low price of "their own share" may finally undermine "ordinary" Russians' confidence in both privatization and the government reforms as a whole.

Another purpose is to demonstrate enterprises' readiness for the structural reconfiguration of industry. As of today (according to incomplete data), 5,603 enterprises with incorporation capital in excess of R50 million have submitted privatization plans. The documents of 2,042 enterprises have been approved, and 1,284 have been registered as joint-stock companies. This is a significant social group comprising approximately 15 million workers (not counting members of their families). At the same time it is worth bearing in mind that "small" privatization is going on alongside "big" privatization. This involves countless tens of thousands of enterprises with incorporation capital of less than R50 million. So some sort of social base for the planned reforms does exist. According to Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, in every 100 cases when enterprises that are on the prohibited lists ask to be allowed to issue shares, there is only one case where an enterprise is refused permission to do so. This base will broaden. And although, as the proverb puts it, you don't go showing unfinished work to everybody, it seems that political reasons are prompting the reformers to hurry along with their showcase actions.

Now to the third and probably the main purpose of holding auctions specifically in November: To get everything done before the Congress. The members of the Russian Government themselves admit that the reform process is still not irreversible. And if some hypothetical new premier wished to turn back to an economy managed through coercion he would be able to do so in time. The first stage of reforms announced last February—financial stabilization—has been successfully wrecked. (Not without the help of newly approved Central Bank head Viktor Gerashchenko, who is concerned more with injecting money into industry rather than with the state of the finances.)

This stage in the new edition of the "Program for Deepening the Economic Reforms" has been postponed to the "end of the anticrisis period." That is to say, it has been put back to a time when radical institutional changes will have been implemented in the economy. Provided there is no interference, 1993 should be the

baseline year. It will then be possible to speak of a major livening up of the stock market. The privatization issue thus acquires political overtones. Implementing privatization is the reform team's last chance to execute its plan. And it is probably not by chance that Anatoliy Chubays willingly responded to a question from the floor about his mutual relations with Volskiy. He stated that the Civic Union program that was officially handed to Boris Yeltsin Wednesday contained a great deal of sense in the section dealing with privatization. It seems that Civic Union and the government have a common enemy. A bit more dangerous.

Controls Toughened on Export of Dual-Purpose Materials

OW0611201392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources close to the government reported that the Cabinet of Ministers approved the provision on the governmental commission on export control ("Exportcontrol"). The main aim of Exportcontrol is the protection of the state interests in the sphere of foreign activity and conversion of the defense industry.

The commission should provide for single policy and leadership in the control for the export of raw materials, materials, equipment, technologies, and scientific-technical information used in development of armaments and military equipment. Materials, equipment, and technologies used for peaceful purposes, but which can be used in the development of mass destruction weapons, also will be under control of this commission.

Plutonium Leak From Sunken Submarine Feared

PM0911121892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2044 GMT 8 Oct 92

[From the "Military Review" program: Report over video on leaking Komsomolets nuclear submarine]

[Text] [Unidentified female correspondent over video of a safe and an inscription reading "Behind Seven Seals"] On 7 April 1989 the Soviet nuclear submarine Komsomolets caught fire and sank in the Norwegian Sea. This happened in the zone of Norwegian economic interests, but our fishermen fish there too, as do those from Denmark, Britain, and Germany.

This is not the first nuclear submarine to have found its final resting place at the bottom of the sea. But, according to experts, it is the first such submarine whose nuclear reactor has already sprung a leak [dal tech]. In the mass media this—from an ecological viewpoint—almost harmless discharge of radionuclides into the water has taken on fantastic dimensions.

[Tengiz Borisov, vice president of League of Independent Scientists] Well, the catastrophic pictures conjured up by people's imagination, which found their way into the press, describing a tsunami that would arise as a result of a nuclear explosion and dash against the Norwegian coast, for example, or our coast, can effectively be ruled out.

[Correspondent] It is known, however, that apart from the reactor, the sunken submarine also contains two nuclear-tipped torpedoes whose warheads contain plutonium.

[Borisov] The discharge into the sea of the several kilograms of plutonium contained in the warheads will mean that fishing will be impossible in the area in question for approximately 600 to 700 years.

[Correspondent] How large is this area?

[Borisov] The area covers the Norwegian Sea, which is a busy fishing ground.

[Correspondent] The whole sea?

[Borisov] Practically the whole Sea.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the leakage of plutonium from the warheads is quite likely?

[Borisov] In 1995, or 1996 at the latest, a relatively substantial discharge of radionuclides into the water is expected.

[Correspondent] The uniqueness of the Komsomolets nuclear submarine lies in the fact that many of its systems and parts are made of heterogenous alloys. They resemble a layered cake which is likely to disintegrate in this medium as a result of corrosion.

[Borisov] At present lightweight alloys and ferrous metals are corroding very fast. This includes steel and alloys containing aluminum and magnesium elements...

[Correspondent] Is plutonium already escaping?

[Borisov] Plutonium is disintegrating. However, no leaks have been registered to date, so to speak. The problem is that plutonium as such is very difficult to identify in sea water. It is very difficult at the moment to ascertain the presence of plutonium in water by means of sensors.

It seems quite likely that particles containing plutonium will be swallowed by marine micro-organisms and thus enter the food chain via living organisms in that part of the sea and thus end up on our tables.

[Correspondent] Why have we not been told about this until now, this main threat that the sunken submarine poses?

[Borisov] Initially, when the Navy was afraid that it would be asked to eliminate the consequences, our deputy commanders for political affairs tried to persuade people that there was no threat, that everything

was in order, that there was no cause for concern. Now, it is true, they are more cautious in their statements, or they refrain from statements on this subject altogether. But they have admitted that a danger exists.

[Correspondent] Have they admitted this in public, or in private?

[Borisov] For the time being, only among themselves.

[Correspondent] The withholding of such grave information will probably not entail strict penalties. The concealment of truth was part of the Soviet Union's traditions. We still know very little about the first Soviet nuclear submarine that sank, about the state of the nuclear reactor from the nuclear icebreaker Lenin, which lies buried in the same waters, about the nuclear waste dumped in the Siberian marshes. The true causes of the death of (?starfish) in the White Sea have not been established. We can point to an obvious culprit—the military-industrial complex!

A Soviet nuclear submarine has sunk. Who is responsible for it now? To whom does it belong?

[Borisov] Since the loss of the submarine and its exclusion from the fleet, the Navy is essentially no longer responsible for it in legal terms. At present the submarine in question is Russia's property.

[Correspondent] And so Russia will be liable to Norway, Denmark, and Britain for the spread of death in the sea, if it occurs. How will the sickness of people poisoned by plutonium from our warheads be measured, calculated, and compensated? And the main question—how can this disaster be forestalled? It must be done before it is too late. After all, scientists have said that 18 months at most remain before substantial leaks of plutonium could occur.

National Affairs

State Duma Dissolved; Deputy Premiers Reshuffled

LD0711094792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Our Kiev correspondent, Vladimir Sokolov, has told us that the Ukrainian State Duma, founded by the president of Ukraine, has already been dissolved, having been proved unconstitutional. In its place a socioeconomic council has been set up as part of the presidential administration, to be led by former First Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Simonenko. Konstantin Masik, the other former first deputy prime minister, has been appointed ambassador to the Scandinavian countries. Former Prime Minister Vitold Fokin has become the president's first economic advisor.

Vice Premier Ready To Cooperate With Supreme Council

LD0711120192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The statement of Ihor Yukhnovskyy, our first deputy prime minister, on cooperation between the new Cabinet of Ministers and the Supreme Council may probably be considered as today's news. Each organism has a fixed supply of creativity. After this supply has been exhausted it should be replaced by another organism, a new one, both in the creative and the ideological sense. This is the point of view of the first deputy prime minister of Ukraine regarding the Supreme Council.

The new government is intending to cooperate honestly with the present existing Supreme Council, because one can hardly do anything without the support of parliament. The aim of the Cabinet is to have contacts with the appropriate commissions and regular reports by ministers before them.

Kiev Rallies Celebrate Great October Revolution

LD0711215992 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] In Kiev supporters of socialist ideals laid flowers at the workers' monument at the Arsenal plant and gathered for a rally near the Supreme Council building. The Coordination Council of the Working Ukraine [Trudova Ukrayina] association, which was organized a week ago, became the initiator of the October Revolution anniversary celebrations. The association comprises the Socialist Party, the Workers' Union, the Union of Veterans, and several other organizations. The participants in the rally sharply criticized the present policy for independence of the parliament and the government of Ukraine and called for active opposition to new reformers from the national bourgeoisie.

Apart from mutual insults, no incidents occurred between those taking part in the demonstration and their political opponents on Independence Square during a ceremonial march through the center of Kiev. Laying flowers at the monument to Lenin on Bessarabska Square concluded the celebration.

Today RUKH members held a rally in memory of victims of the October Revolution. It was stressed in speeches that the St. Petersburg coup of 1917 brought to Ukraine the division of the state according to the Brest Peace Treaty, civil war, collectivization, famine and Stalin, and the post-Stalin repressions. RUKH said it does not want revenge but it wants radical political and economic reforms directed at Ukraine's emergence from the crisis and the development of a sovereign state.

Sevastopol Rally Urges Unification With Russia

OW0811002392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A rally marking the 75th anniversary of the October Revolution was also held in Sevastopol, the Crimea. Its participants carried slogans reading, "Sevastopol is part of Russia," and "We want a renovated Soviet Union." Most speakers appealed for the Crimea's unification with Russia, some of them describing the local Ukrainian administration as "occupation authorities." The Crimea was made part of Ukraine in the late 1950s.

The rally participants marched down one of the city's main streets, laying flowers at a statue of Lenin. The procession was led by a Black Sea Fleet brass band, which took part in it at the orders of the fleet's acting commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov.

The Sevastopol committee of the National Salvation Front, which encompasses left- and right-wing opposition organizations, called on the people of Sevastopol and Black Sea Fleet sailors to help unify the republics of the former USSR into a single country.

Tajikistan

President Against Bishkek Supreme Council Session; Kozyrev Comments

OW0611190692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskobionikov, Boris Grishchenko, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has its geopolitical interests in Tajikistan and will be aiming not to allow extremist forces to further de-stabilise the situation in the former Soviet republic. Diplomatic Panorama can report that the above statement was made on Friday [6 November] by Andrey Kozyrev at a meeting with officers from the 201st motor division and officers from the Russian border units stationed in Tajikistan.

Kozyrev stressed that one of the Russian troops' priorities in the other republics was to protect the Russian speaking population. Kozyrev pointed out with satisfaction that for the first time in his nation's history the words "where there are Russians there is peace and an end to bloodshed" rang out.

This sentiment was felt even more strongly in the minister's speech at a meeting with representatives of the Russian community in Dushanbe. Kozyrev made it quite clear that if "irresponsible circles" were to begin to undertake any kind of action against Russians, then Russia would not stand idly by and would be compelled to take "a very decisive position."

At the meeting with the Russian military, Kozyrev said that their priority was to halt the mass bloodshed and assist with preserving the statehood of Tajikistan. Here he stressed that Russia would be assuming a strictly impartial role in the country's affairs.

Regarding the meeting in Alma-Ata, the minister pointed out that at the moment none of the leaders of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan had full information about events in Tajikistan at their disposal, although Russia had counted on this. Wednesday's meeting in Alma-Ata was attended by Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev (Kazakhstan), Askar Akayev (Kyrgyzstan), Islam Karimov (Uzbekistan), Acting Tajik President Akbarsho Iskandarov and the Russian president's personal representative, Andrey Kozyrev.

Kozyrev was of the opinion that Iskandarov was, at the present moment in time, the most legitimate representative of the Tajik authorities. Namely because of this he was representing the republic at the meeting in Alma-Ata. The meeting's participants called for a session of the Tajik Supreme Council to take place not later than November 20th. With this in view, Kozyrev pointed out that it would be highly advisable for the Russian troops to mount a security operation for the parliamentary deputies for the period of the Supreme Council's session. He did not rule out the possibility that the session could take place on "neutral ground", for example in Bishkek, and added that he thought that Askar Akayev would not have any objection to this.

Acting Tajik President A. Iskandarov made a negative response to the idea of holding the session in Bishkek. He told Diplomatic Panorama that a venue could be found in the republic and that there was no need to travel to Bishkek. He also said that he was ready to sit down at the negotiating table with anyone at all, including Kulyaba's leaders, in order to put an end to "this fratricidal war".

Commenting on Iskandarov's idea of forming a State Council, Kozyrev said that he had not received any "hopeful signal" in Kulyaba regarding the temporary organisation. However, he pointed out that that Kulyaba's leaders fully supported the idea of holding a session of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan. All the leaders of Tajikistan's political parties and movements with whom Kozyrev had spoken, including Davlat Usmon, the deputy chairman of the Islamic Renaissance Party, were in favour of forming the State Council. In Kozyrev's opinion, which he expressed at an interview with a group of Russian journalists, the bloodshed would continue in Tajikistan if the "conciliatory" council did not come into being.

Kozyrev gave a detailed account of the new Russia's political aims. He said that the old conception, based on world wide confrontation, was now a relic of the past. "Now Russia is striving for real partnership and a future alliance with the West." However, this did not mean that Moscow would not be struggling to find a seller's market for its military and conversional assets such as arms, uranium and space technology. "This is not confrontation, not a reckless race which would burden Russia's economy," he said.

The minister remarked that Russia was being presented with two options concerning relations with its neighbour-states. "The first is to walk away recklessly, and the second is to intervene recklessly in all affairs, dictate our own will, and deploy our armed forces." Neither option was acceptable to Russia, in the minister's opinion. He said that "attempts to impose our own will on other states would bring no advantages." Those who said that Russia's departure was necessary were subscibers to "defeatist conceptions" about Russia's national interests. "Reckless departure", he continued, would mean the "betrayal of our neighbours," with whom Russia has traditionally maintained good relations.

Kozyrev will travel to Ashgabat after Dushanbe for consultations with the Turkmen leadership on methods for resolving the conflict in Tajikistan. This evening the minister will return to Moscow.

Opposition Rejects Kozyrev State Council Proposal

LD0611233192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Opponents of the current Tajik Government have refused to join the multilateral State Council being created in the republic. They declined the proposal to this effect made by Russia's Foreign Minister Kozyrev, who visited their headquarters in Kulyab oblast on a mediating mission. Nonetheless, having already left Tajikistan, Kozyrev again said the creation of the State Council, headed by Acting Tajik President Iskandarov, is the only correct decision. According to Kozyrev, there is simply no alternative if you take the paralysis of power into account. Moreover, it is a temporary measure, to prepare the republic for new elections. At the same time, Turkmen President Niyazov, with whom Kozyrev also discussed the Tajik events, was ostentatiously aloof; he stated the situation in Tajikistan is changing daily. He said various groups are opposing one another and what appears unequivocal today no longer appears in the same light on the following day. In these circumstances, Turkmenistan remains neutral.

Government, Russia Specify Status of 201st Division

OW0611173492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The 201st Motorized Rifle Division of the Russian Armed Forces, which is deployed in Tajikistan may be used to carry out "measures related to curfews, the guarding of important installations and bases, the establishment and manning of control checkpoints, the separation of opposing forces, and the disarming of illegal armed formations. These options are mentioned in a protocol signed on Friday [6 November] by Tajik Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov and a representative of the Russian president, Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, who is Deputy Commander of Land Forces.

The document specifies that the division may not take part in political struggles or in the military activities of any of the republic's opposing parties. Its activity will have an "impartial and neutral" character.

The Russian division, stipulates the document, may use their weapons only in "exceptional" situations to defend against attack, to assure security, to defend peoples' lives, or to prevent attempts to seize arms and equipment.

201st Commander Warns Against Intrusion

OW0711165192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commander of the 201st Russian division located in Tajikistan, Major-General Mukhridin Ashurov, stated on local TV that "he will not allow armed formations of any political bias to penetrate into Dushanbe".

He stressed that the 201st division will resist all attempts of robbery and brigandage, and "destroy terrorist and subversive criminal groupings". Ashurov warned that if the lives of civilians, servicemen and members of their families come under threat, fire will be opened immediately. "There must be no doubts about this," he said.

He pointed out that the Russian servicemen are patrolling the streets of Dushanbe all day long. "Whereas previously we protected civilians on our own initiative, now we shall act in accordance with the agreements reached between the leaders of Tajikistan and Russia," he said.

Ashurov also noted that according to his sources, different groupings are preparing an attack on the city. He said he was against interference in the internal affairs of this sovereign republic, but warned that within the limits of the city the Russian servicemen will not allow either any grouping or individual to use weapons.

The acting president of Tajikistan has appointed Ashurov vice-chairman of the State Council which is a new collective republican body. The State Council is headed by Acting President Iskandarov.

Decree Issued on Formation of State Council

LD0711173492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1652 GMT 7 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Grindneva]

[Text] Dushanbe November 7 TASS—Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of Tajiksitan, issued a decree about the formation of the republic's State Council with the aim of preventing the fratricidal war and for the sake of saving the Tajik nation.

According to the decree, the acting prime minister of Tajikistan, Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov and the commander of the 201st Russian Motor-Rifle Division, Mukhriddin Ahsurov, were appointed vice-chairmen of the State Council.

Decisions of the State Council will be liable to be obeyed on the entire territory of the republic, disobeying them will be tantamount to activities directd against the people and the state, the decree stated.

CIS Envoys Fly to Combat Zone

OW0711234792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [7 November], the envoys of the Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Kazakh and Russian presidents, and a

delegation of the UN flew out from Dushanbe to the Kulyab region, where fighting continues between the conflicting political groupings.

Kyrgyzstan's Vice-President Feliks Kulov told IF [INTERFAX] that the delegation will hold talks with representatives of the conflicting parties, visit the Pyandzh railway terminal where about 10,000 refugees had gathered, and try to free head of the Kurgan-Tyube regional administration Kadriddin Aslonov, who had been taken refuge by Kulyab armed formations.

Kulov also said that the envoys of the Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Kazakh and Russian presidents had announced their readiness to act as observers during the forthcoming session of the Tajik parliament.

No Interference in Fighting Near Afghan Border

OW0711165892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief of the operations staff of the Russian border forces in Tajikistan, Valeriy Kochenov, told INTERFAX fighting is particularly fierce near the Afghan border in Kurgan-Tyube Region. He said some 10,000 residents of Pyanj District have taken refuge on the premises of frontier posts.

Kochenov said the Russian border guards, who protect the outer border of the CIS, are not interfering in the fighting. Nor is any interference being made from Afghan territory, he said.

Russian Border Guards Killed at Afghan Border

LD0811091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0812 GMT 8 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Nov—Three Russian border guards were killed and four were wounded in a fight with intruders on the Tajik-Afghan border at noon on 7 November. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press bureau of the Russian Federation border troops that the incident occurred on territory monitored by a subunit of the Khorov border troops detachment. As the group of intruders, on their way from Afghanistan to Tajikistan, was being detained, intense fire from automatic weapons was aimed at the border guards from Afghan territory.

'Intensive Fighting' Reported Outside Regar

OW0811131592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fighting continues between the warring groupings near the administrative centers of Kumsangir and Pyanj. Fire exchanges are also noted in the village of Gissar, 30 kilometers off Dushanbe.

According to IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent, on Sunday another group of refugees, over 3,000 people, arrived in Dushanbe from Kabodien District where heavy fighting is taking place. The refugees were placed in a local hotel.

Participants in armed conflicts robbed a train with humanitarian aid on its way from Uzbekistan to Tajikistan, between Saryassia and Regar.

At 5:30 AM [local time] on Sunday intensive fighting broke out outside Regar. Another 15 trains with foods, fuel and medicines are blocked on railway tracks between Termez, Denau and Saryassia, hindering the movement of trains in the whole of Central Asia.

Supreme Soviet Holds Emergency Meeting; Situation Updated

LD0911095592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0640 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Correspondent Alisher Khodzhayev telephone report from Dushanbe]

[Text] Good day. Refugees, now from Kabadianskiy Rayon of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, have been arriving in Dushanbe for the past 24 hours. Military operations are now being carried out on the territory of this rayon and also close to the settlement of Garauly.

Tractors, wagons, and trucks packed with people and their basic belongings filled the square outside the presidential palace today. They are mainly women and children, but there is practically nowhere left to house them. The city has taken in more than 50,000 refugees. Worker and student hostels, hotels, and pensions are being used as temporary accommodations.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0950 GMT on 9 November adds: "Combat operations have spread to two more districts of the Kurgan-Tyube region—the Kabodien and Shaartuz districts. Thousands of local residents left their homes, fearing for their lives. Many of them came to Dushanbe, where 55,000 refugees are now staying. Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Aslidin Sokhibnazarov [name as received] told KHOVAR that there are 430,000 refugess in Tajikistan now. The government is taking all possible measures for providing them with temporary shelter and food. However, the problem is becoming more acute from one day to the next."]

A peacemaking delegation led by Kyrgyz Vice President Feliks Kulov returned from a two-day trip through Kurgan-Tyube Oblast yesterday evening. Starting with the present situation, its aim was to seek ways of getting out of the fratricidal war.

Members of the delegation met representatives of the administration and the population, people's deputies, and commanders of armed detachments, border guards, and servicemen. The belligerent sides have reached an understanding on the necessity to convene a Supreme Soviet session. The venue, however, is still an open question. Bishkek, Tashkent, and, in an emergency, Khodzhent, in the center of Tajikistan's Leninabad Oblast, have been proposed.

The same districts lay in the path of the UN goodwill mission led by Raymond Sommeryens. This international delegation includes experts on political and military affairs and also on refugees and immigrants. During the trip the guests—if they actually can be called guests—are holding talks with representatives of various parties and movements and the leaders of armed groups on a range of questions related to the world community providing specific aid to Tajikistan in resolving its domestic armed conflict and also in providing economic and food aid, the latter of which is particularly important at this time.

The UN mission will work in Tajikistan until 15 November, but the humanitarian aid already has begun to arrive in Tajikistan. However, the single railway line between Dushanbe and the outside world was blocked again yesterday. The blockade again took place in Gissarskiy Rayon.

At this very moment, as I make this report, an emergency session of the Presidium of the republican Supreme Soviet has started. In Gissarskiy Rayon, which is 30 km from Dushanbe, talks have begun on lifting the railway blockade and a cease-fire. I will be able to say how these two steps turn out later, in the next report. For now, that is all from Dushanbe.

Conflicting Sides To Abide by Parliament Decisions

OW0911131892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief result of Sunday's [8 November] talks in Dushanbe on a settlement in Tajikistan was the consent voiced in principle by the sides to regard decisions of the future session of the Republic's Parliament "as legally binding". This has been declared in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] by the vice-chairman of the Tajik parliament Akhmadzhon Saidov.

Taking part in the negotiations were personal envoys of presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia, Kyrgyzstan's Vice-President Feliks Kulov, Kulyab popular movement leaders, representatives of the Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube administrations, and regional legislators.

Mr. Saidov made it clear that" the republican leadership would do all it could to hold the session not later than November 20". He did not rule out that the concrete date would be decided within the next two days. Mr. Saidov cited three cities as the venue for the session: Hudjand [placename as received] (Tajikistan's regional centre), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) or Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).

He declared that the idea to form a state council in the republic had not made Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab administrators too happy. According to their statements, a new collegiate body could be edorsed only if approved by Parliament.

The parliament's vice-speaker confirmed that taking part in the upcoming session at Dushanbe's invitation would be the heads of state, who'd attended the meeting on a settlement in Tajikistan held in Alma Ata last week.

Mr. Saidov disclosed that Russia's the 201 motorized division had been assigned to guarantee the session's security.

Acute Food Shortages Reported in Dushanbe

LD0811071992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0638 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] We have some morning news for Mayak listeners, although I am afraid it would be difficult to call it Sunday news. Here is Mayak correspondent Alishir Khodzhayev. We are listening to you.

[Khodzhayev] Good morning. Our capital Dushanbe is slowly coming out of a stupor. The bloody events that took place in the capital on 24-25 October have left city residents with a severe psychological scar, without mentioning the material damage, which amounts to hundreds of millions of rubles. But the most important and the most tragic thing is the fact that once again people have been killed.

However, the people of Dushanbe are gradually getting back to normal. Public transportation, industrial enterprises, and a number of institutions have started working once again. But food shortages are acute. One must stand in line for five to six hours in order to buy bread—the only remaining obtainable food staple. But because of fuel shortages in the city, suburbs receive bread sporadically. So people in Dushanbe sometimes walk up to several kilometers to the two bread factories in the capital. Policemen shoot into the air trying to keep some semblance of a line. But there is still not enough bread. Because of high prices and low wages, bread has become the staple food for many families.

Turkmenistan

President Meets Russia's Kozyrev on Tajikistan

LD0611175692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1310 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report by Ashgabat correspondent Mirgen Amanov on Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Turkmenistan]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev said at the airport that the main goal of his visit is to brief the country's leadership on the work carried out together with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states to find a Tajik settlement, to share impressions, and to hold consultations on how to proceed further to cooperate in the cause of stabilization in the region as a whole on the basis of bilateral accords. Andrey Kozyrev then met Turkmen President Niyazov and handed him a message from President Yeltsin. Certain specific aspects of economic agreements and the timing of their signing were discussed. Positions on the agreements reached earlier on the status of Russian troops and the protection of Turkmenistan's southern borders were confirmed. Russia and Turkmenistan are adhering to their agreements on mutually beneficial cooperation.

The parties voiced great concern over the processes in Tajikistan. It was stressed that the situation is complex and controversial there and that even the most objective analysis will be marked by a certain one-sidedness. President Niyazov noted that the people's wisdom should triumph over ambition and emotion and that the people themselves should find a way out of the situation that has emerged. Naturally, the international community's assistance is required for that. In any case, Turkmenistan firmly adheres to a policy of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. Turkmenistan is currently giving Tajikistan help in food, power, and other commodities.

Says No Direct Support for Tajik Groups

OW0611173992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Having finished his visit to Tajikistan, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan, where he has begun negotiations with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov.

Before the talks started, Niyazov told reporters that the Tajik conflict is "the internal matter of the Tajik people," and that now that the USSR has fallen apart, "each republic reacts painfully to any external factors." Tajikistan needs "strong government," Niyazov said, expressing the hope that the conflicting parties will start negotiations and reach an agreement on free elections.

Turkmenistan is giving Tajikistan economic assistance to "stop the fraternal people's living standards from going down," but it will give "no direct support to any of the groups," Niyazov said.

Stresses Neutrality in Conflict

MK0711132592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Nov 92 p 3

[Igor Zhukov report under the general headline: "Andrey Kozyrev's Two Days. Russian Minister Was Unable To Reconcile Tajiks and Met With Turkmen President"]

[Text] Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov met with Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, personal representative of the Russian president, in Ashgabat yesterday. There was an exchange of opinions on realizing bilateral Turkmen-Russian documents.

At a news conference held after the talks, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov gave the following answer to a question from your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent on his view of the situation in Tajikistan and what Turkmenistan's position on this matter is: "I think it is a very complex problem. The situation in Tajikistan is changing every day. There is ongoing confrontation between various tendencies and groupings, and what may seem unequivocal today will not look that way tomorrow. The absence of a strong power structure is affecting the political situation in many ways. In these conditions Turkmenistan is continuing to stick to a neutral position. The problems of Tajikistan undoubtedly need to be resolved, but at the international community level, through a session of CIS heads of state with mandatory involvement of Tajik leaders and the UN and CSCE mechanisms. Our direct contacts boil down to offering economic aid to the people of Tajikistan and maintaining their standard of living. Tajik parties, movements, and tendencies should themselves sit around the negotiating table and hold free elections, having enlisted the support of international organizations in order to approve a power structure that suits the interests of all sections of the population."

Government Supports Russian Efforts

OW0711170092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan backs Russia's attempts to settle the conflict in Tajikistan, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Boris Shikhmuradov told IF [INTERFAX]. Commenting on the results of the Friday [6 November] talks between Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev he said that "Russia should not stay on the sidelines of the settlement of global problems".

He also noted that Russia's 201st division located in Tajikistan is performing a purely peace-keeping mission. This division is between the conflicting parties and often suffers from this conflict, he said.

To quote Shikhmuradov, during the talks with Andrey Kozyrev, President Niyazov reiterated that Turkmenistan will stick to the policy of non-interference in Tajikistan's internal affairs and of neutrality in the political part of the conflict. However, Turkmenistan will continue to render economic and humanitarian aid to Tajikistan.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi Visits

Discusses Tajikistan With Niyazov

LD0711223492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan met with Mahmud Va'ezi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, on 7 November. President Niyazov stressed the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in the region and called for the active contribution of Iran toward the resolution of the problems of Tajikistan. He said: I have always said and I continue to believe that no problem in the region can be solved without the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran. President Niyazov added: We believe that the problems of Tajikistan cannot be solved by military means; the clashes in that republic must be brought to an end by means of negotiation. The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in such negotiations would be of great importance. He spoke about the effects of good relations between the two countries on peace and stability in the region and said: Despite the adverse propaganda, we will strengthen our cooperation with Iran.

Our country's deputy foreign minister, for his part, noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran places great value on having friendly relations with the neighboring Islamic country of Turkmenistan. He expressed regret about the continuation of clashes in Tajikistan and said: Iran is prepared to work for the peaceful resolution of Tajikistan's problems with the cooperation of the other countries of the region.

Holds Talks With Foreign Minister

LD0911150692 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 9, IRNA—Expansion of Iran-Turkmenistan relations will be in the interest of Tehran and Ashgabat as well as regional states, said Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Abdy Kuliyev to the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi in Ashgabat Sunday night.

Referring to importance Ashgabat attaches to its relations with Tehran, Kuliyev described bilateral relations as "cordial and promising."

Va'ezi said mutual cooperation among the regional countries was the "best" means to guarantee the security and tranquility in the region.

He stressed significance of the Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation organization and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in securing national and regional interests.

The Iranian official is currently on a tour of Central Asia which has already taken him to Uzbekistan where he inaugurated Iranian Embassy, and Kazakhstan. He met with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov Saturday.

Party's New Newspaper Outlines Program

LD0811230192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] A new newspaper called ATA-VATAN has appeared in Turkmenistan. It is the mouthpiece of the unregistered Democratic Development Party [Partiya Demokraticheskogo Razvitiya]. Its first bilingual Russo-Turkmen issue sets out the party's program. The main planks in the program are the establishment of a secular, democratic state in the republic, the introduction of a multiparty system, and private ownership of land.

Armenia

Government Ready for Cease-Fire Without Preconditions

OW0611201492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan on Friday met the acting chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament, Georgiy Petrosyan.

The Armenian president's press bureau has announced that L. Ter- Petrosyan and G. Petrosyan had "reconfirmed their readiness to enter into an immediate cease fire agreement for the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and for Karabakh without preconditions".

Azerbaijan, however, is proposing as a precondition the release by Armenian units of the Karabakh town of Shush and the Azeri regional centre of Lachin, close to which runs the corridor which joins Karabakh with Armenia.

Arutyunyan Comments on Republic's 'Grave' Situation

NC0611205792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan held a news conference to assess his first 100 days in office. He noted with regret that not only has there been no serious improvement in the socioeconomic situation, but the level of development has decreased. The nation's financial situation has deteriorated. The growing budget deficit over the last nine months has given cause for concern. This fact is creating considerable problems in financing the social sector, in particular the implementation of the social security policy.

The prime minister discussed the rise in bread prices, saying that it had to be done because the republic's budget cannot cover the debt anymore.

The situation in the nation's energy sector is extremely tense due to the gas pipeline closure in northern Caucasus and that region's complex political situation. The republic is simply facing a grave situation. Only 5 million cubic meters of gas is entering Armenia daily, which is not enough to meet the minimum energy demands. This situation is affecting all economic activity.

The prime minister, however, announced that the repair work on gas pipeline in northern Caucasus has been completed and the gas supply situation will improve soon.

The rail tracks are in disrepair. Compared to the previous periods, its the freight transportation capacity has deteriorated drastically.

Arutyunyan also spoke in detail on measures the government is adopting to stabilize the socioeconomic situation, to prepare the republic for winter, and to supply the population with foodstuffs, bread, medicines, essential goods, and fuel.

He also replied to reporters' questions.

[Yerevan SNARK in English at 1536 GMT on 6 November reports on the prime minister's press conference and quotes him as saying that there are "between 70,000 and 80,000" unemployed in Armenia. SNARK adds: "70 per sent of population can hardly support their existence, confessed premier. Khosrov Arutyunyan underlined that negative balance is observed in Armenian-Russian trade. Poor Armenian resources in central bank of Russia make the situation worse. He also noticed that Armenian Government 'constantly feels Russian authorities' support.' As for traffic communication renewing on the territory of Azerbaijan, prime minister declared that 'it is necessary to agree on mutually beneficial schema based on bilateral interest.'"]

Praises Russian 'Understanding'

LD0711151992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Nov 92

[D. Pisarenko report from Yerevan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan's first 100 days in office have been commemorated by a news conference. In an interview with a "Vesti" correspondent, the head of the Armenian Government said:

[Begin Arutyunyan recording] In the complex, abnormal situation that now exists, we are maintaining very close contacts with the Russian leadership. I would like to particularly emphasize that the understanding we are getting from the Russian leadership and from the president and prime minister is helping to a great extent, perhaps not to resolve but to at least tackle many pressing problems. [end recording]

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Sees Role for 'Turkic States' With Turkey

OW0711045292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey regarded highly the results of his trip to Turkey. In an interview on Azerbaijani television he declared that the visit raised relations between the two countries to a new level.

Concerning the meeting of heads of Turkic language states of the former Soviet Union and Turkey, Elchibey

noted the meeting's significance for Russia as well. "For many centuries the relationship between Russia and Turkey has been characterized as a rivalry, sometimes developing into hostility," said the president. He believes the Turkic states of the former Soviet Union could become a connecting link between Russia and Turkey, helping to bring together the peoples of these two states, as well as strengthening good neighbor relations.

Official Predicts Economic Crisis 'Almost Over'

OW0711035592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 6 Nov 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The economic crisis in Azerbaijan is almost over, the country has entered the period of economic stabilization," the republic's state secretary, Panakh Guseynov, said to an INTERFAX correspondent. In his words, "the first signs of revival become noticeable in all the branches of the republic's economy". He made special emphasis on the rate of capital and housing construction in the recent several months which has increased two to three times. In particular, the republic's currency funds have exceeded $50 mn [million].

Mr. Guseynov believes at the "last stage" of stabilization it would be especially important to complete the reorganization of control and management structures with the view to increase the efficiency of their operation. This measure, in his words, will resolve most of the remaining economic and political problems. A complete government program of economic reforms containing exact time terms for realizing its major stages has already been prepared and it will be made public soon.

Interior Ministry Seeks Mutalibov's Extradition

OW0811164692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Interior Ministry has asked Russia's Interior Ministry and Prosecutor's Office to extradite the former Azeri president Ayaz Mutalibov. There is information that he resides in a locality near Moscow.

As the Azeri Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov said in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX], Moscow has not given its reply so far. According to I. Khamidov, his ministry "is doing all in its power to return A. Mutalibov to Azerbaijan".

The Azeri Prosecutor's Office issued a warrant for Mutalibov's arrest and delivery to Baku on November 3, as soon as legal proceedings were instituted against the ex-president.

The former Azeri leader is charged with having organized the coup of May 14-15 this year, when Azerbaijan's parliament reinstated him, following his resignation in March, in the presidency, and banned the presidential elections planned for June. In answer to this supporters of Azerbaijan's Popular Front took to the streets and seized the presidential palace.

In Moscow, I. Khamidov told IF, there are "certain reactionary forces" who "oppose A. Mutalibov's return to Azerbaijan".

Defense Ministry Denies Attack on Russian Unit

OW0611172892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskobionikov, Boris Grishchenko, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri defence ministry rejected on Friday a media report that an attack was made on a Russian troop unit in the Azeri town of Gyandzha on November 5th. The ministry, using information supplied by the Azeri public prosecutor's office, said that the shooting, which was responsible for the death of one serviceman, took place on the territory of the unit itself. The reasons for the shooting have not yet been ascertained.

Patrols in Gyandzha have, according to the Azeri defence ministry, been stepped up. They are being carried out by local police and Russian servicemen.

Republic Becomes 'First' To Join Islamic Development Bank

LD0811204092 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Azerbaijan will be the first republic of the former Soviet Union to become a member of the Islamic Development Bank. Salih Mamedov, Azerbaijan's finance minister, will arrive in Tehran tomorrow to take part in a meeting of banking executives from states which belong to this bank.

Nakhichevan's Aliyev To Chair Party Committee

LD0611234992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Mirza Askerov—TASS]

[Text] Baku November 6 TASS—Nakhichevan Parliament Head Geydar Aliyev has been elected today chairman of the Organizational Committee of the Eni Azerbaijan (New Azerbaijan) Party.

In his words, the political organization was brought to life by a vital necessary, including the complicated social and political situation in the republic, to change which he will do his best.

Georgia

Parliament Elects Shevardnadze Head of State

LD0611160292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 92

[SAKINFORM report for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi November 6 TASS—The Georgian parliament elected its speaker Eduard Shevardnadze head of state on Friday [6 November].

Elects Goguadze as Speaker

LD0611223392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2159 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi November 7 TASS—Georgian law-makers elected Vakhtang Goguadze Speaker of Parliament late on Friday [6 November].

Fifty-two-year-old Goguadze, a philosopher by education, worked as a secretary of the Georgian State Council before the appointment.

Experts believe the establishment of the post of the speaker of parliament and recognition of Eduard Shevardnadze, who was recently elected chairman of the republican parliament, as head of the state in accordance with the law on state power in the Republic of Georgia introduces presidential rule in the republic.

Reelects Sigua Prime Minister

OW0811234792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 8 Nov 92

[From the "Politics, Economy" section of the "Business Report" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament Sunday re-elected Tengiz Sigua prime minister. Sigua, in keeping with constitutional guidelines, resigned after general elections were held in October, bringing Edward Shevardnadze to the helm.

Sigua said that for the next few years economic development will be focused on agriculture and machine building.

The prime minister also announced that Georgia will execute three global projects over the next 7-10 years. These are—the reconstruction and expansion of the Black Sea port in Poti, the construction of a major highway from Poti to Baku (Azerbaijan), including highways into Iran, and the construction of the Poti-Baku oil pipeline.

Shevardnadze Takes Up Commander in Chief Duties

LD0811221692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 8 Nov 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze announced on 8 November at a session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet that he is taking up his duties as the Republic's commander in chief.

The same day, the Georgian parliament elected Tengiz Sigua as prime minister. Last night his candidacy did not pass due to a computer error.

Speaker Granted Most Rights of Head of State

LD0611234292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi November 6 TASS—Georgian parliament speaker now enjoys practically all the rights of the head of state, according to the Law on State Authority adopted by the Republican parliament on Friday [6 November].

The only exclusions are that the speaker cannot dissolve parliament and can be dismissed from the post if over two thirds of lawmakers vote for that.

The speaker also cannot appoint and dismiss top state officials without the consent of the parliament.

Khaindrava Says Russian Army Fighting Against Georgia

LD0611131792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Tbilisi November 6 TASS—Georgian State Minister for Abkhazia Georgiy Khaindrava has accused Russian Army units stationed in Abkhazia of direct participation in combat activities against Georgia.

In an official statement published on Friday, Khaindrava said that "Russian troops committed direct aggression against Georgian army units on the Sukhumi direction." The minister cited records of intercepted radio reports by Georgian commanders about artillery shelling and air raids carried out by the Russian army in Abkhazia.

These facts are "another example of joint activities by Abkhazian separatists, armed groups of the confederation of the people of the Caucasus and separate Russian army units," Khaindrava said.

"We hope that such activities by a group of corrupted military commanders will not be supported by the Russian leadership in the person of President (Boris) Yeltsin and democratic forces of Russia which have called for good neighbourly and friendly relations with the republic of Georgia," Khaindrava said.

Says Russian Planes Bomb Sukhumi

OW0611132792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two aircraft from the Russian Air Force bombed Georgian positions on the Gumista River near Sukhumi on Thursday evening, INTERFAX learned from a press attache to Georgian State Minister for Abkhazian Affairs Aleksandr Khaindrava. At the same time, he said, the city came under artillery bombardment. One of the artillery shells hit an apartment building, as a result of which nine people were wounded. Another came down on a maternity hospital, though no injuries resulted. Serious damage was done to the radiological department of the hospital. The night passed quietly in the city, according to the press center of the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

Meanwhile, the Russian Ministry of Defense made no corresponding confirmation, though it did not deny the report about the Russian aircraft having bombed Georgian positions. According to information from its press center, the planes were trying to suppress Georgian fire near an army seismic station. After the sortie, fire ceased. The press center reported that in the last twenty-four hours, the area around the station had come under fire three times, including from Grad multiple rocket launchers.

The Abkhazian Ministry of Defense, for its part, reports that Abkhazian positions on the Gumista River were fired upon by Georgian forces. The Abkhazians destroyed a group of opposing fire points, including one equipped with a Grad system. In the Ochamchir region, skirmishes between Abkhazian partisans and Georgian forces continue. During the fighting, according to information from Gudauta, one Georgian tank, an armored personnel carrier, and an Ikarus bus were destroyed by infantry. The Abkhazians lost two soldiers. In addition, seven non-combatants were wounded by helicopter strafing runs.

Warns Abkhazians To Stop Shelling

LD0811133792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 8 Nov 92

[By freelance ITAR-TASS correspondent Tenghiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 8 Nov—Georgiy Khaindrava, Georgian minister of state for Abkhazian affairs, has called on the Abkhazian side to stop shelling Sukhumi by 2400 on 8 November. Otherwise, he said, the Georgian side will retaliate by supressing all Abkhazian firing positions. Moreover, full responsibility for the possible grave consequences will be borne by the Abkhazian side.

In a statement this afternoon, Georgiy Khaindrava said that despite repeated warnings by the Georgian side, the artillery shelling of residential districts in Sukhumi by Abkhazian and North Caucasian amred formations is continuing. The shelling has caused destruction: a Sukhumi maternity hospital has been damaged, as well as a bakery and the republic's hospital; civilians have been killed and wounded.

The Georgian minister calls on the combat sub-units of Russian troops stationed in the conflict zone to take steps to ensure the safety of civilians, servicemen, and their families living in the rayons of Eshera, Novyy Afon, and Gudauta.

Tbilisi To Put Troops on Alert, Exchange POW's

OW0811164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's Defence Ministry intends to put all the paramilitary units deployed in the Republic on the alert on Monday [9 November].

As IF [INTERFAX] was told at the press center of Georgia's Defence Ministry, under an order signed by Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani the garrisons in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Gori and Akhaltsikhe will be confined to their barracks as of November 9.

All Georgian servicemen are recalled from their leaves. All patrol and sentry units will be reinforced.

In the meantime, addressing Georgia's parliament on Sunday, T. Kitovani said that an agreement had been reached with the Abkhazians to exchange all prisoners of war. The exchanges will take place on Sunday or Monday, he said.

Shevardnadze Seeks 'Appropriate End' to Abkhaz Conflict

OW0911121792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Monday in a radio address, Georgian Parliament Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze said that "the main task before us is to find an appropriate end to the war in Abkhazia." According to Shevardnadze, "a decisive step in this direction has already been taken," though he did not specify which he meant.

Evaluating the early results of the work of the Georgian parliament, he remarked that the activity of the republic's high legislative body is going along "fairly satisfactorily fruitfully." "Regardless of differences of opinion, and occasional clashes, the process is ongoing," said Shevardnadze.

More detailed information regarding Shevardnadze's address is available in INTERFAX's Presidential Bulletin of 9 November.

Officials Meet on Abkhazia's Political Structure

OW0711142592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service under Georgia's Minister of state for Abkhazia says that following the repeal of an Abkhazian offensive to the north of Sukhumi, the separatists launched pinpoint shelling of the city's residential areas. Friday, November 6, a few shells hit a housing project on Kuibyshev street, the sea port terminal, public school 7 and a bakery. One more bakery came under fire. According to the press service, two civilians were killed and eight received injuries.

On its part, the Abkhazian Defense Ministry says the Abkhazian forces have retained a bridgehead to the north of Sukhumi and are engaged in trench warfare on the River Gumista. According to the Ministry, the Georgian forces are rocket-shelling the Abkhazian positions. The Abkhazians are suppressing enemy fire. November 6 the Georgians are reported to have lost more than 50 men in dead and wounded, and one tank.

An INTERFAX correspondent in the region has learnt that Friday delegations of Georgian and Abkhazian MP's met in the city of Gudauta. The head of the Georgian delegation Napoleon Meskhia presented a draft blueprint for Abkhazian political structures. The separatists' response remains unclear. But the Georgian and Abkhazian delegations agreed to meet for more negotiations in Sukhumi.

Government Doubles Minimum Wage

OW0811002592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Government has taken additional social- protection measures. In view of the forthcoming price liberalization, beginning November 1 the minimal wages and salaries were doubled and now amount to 1,700 roubles.

The minimal wages do not include bonuses and additional payments. The monthly student grants, pensions and benefits have also been increased.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Russian Decision on Borders

OW0711022692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1726 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed a statement Friday about a resolution passed November 3 by the Russian Parliament on establishing a state border between the Russian Federation and the Baltic nations.

"Since Estonia has already set such a condition, this step can only be welcomed," states the announcement.

The document stresses that Estonia is prepared to conduct negotiations with the Russian Federation on the specific line of the border, but they can be conducted only on the basis of the Tartu Peace Treaty from February, 1920, which Estonia views as "the only document establishing bilateral agreement on the location of the border." According to the Tartu Treaty, territories currently included in the Russian Leningrad and Pskov regions belong to Estonia.

Labor Unions, Government Disagree on Minimum Wage

OW0711024792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the Estonian Government and leaders of the country's labor unions were unable to agree on an increase in the minimum wage at a meeting held Friday in Tallinn.

Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar countered demands from Estonian labor unions which were presented in a memorandum given to the government by arguing that another round of hyperinflation could not be allowed, the course of the Estonian kroon needed to be supported, and they had to maintain a balanced budget.

Minister of Social Issues Marju Lauristin, who participated in the meeting, believes the salary problem must not be reduced to a one-sided demand for its increase, but must be resolved systematically through antimonopoly laws and privatization.

The meeting's participants agreed that the dialogue between the government and the labor unions will continue.

Union Baltic Bank Freezes Clients' Accounts

OW0811021192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1634 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday, a major bank of the Baltic republics, Union Baltic Bank [UBB], announced it was freezing the deposits and current accounts of state-managed businesses and share holding societies as well as other juristic persons with more than 50 percent of state-invested capital.

The Chairman of the Bank's Supervision Council Sulo Muldia says the bank can act no other way if it wants to avoid bankruptcy. The bank is experiencing difficulties because the former Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Relations, Vneshekonombank, froze more than 40 million U.S. dollars of UBB's assets early this year. The assets were frozen owing to the insolvency of the formerly Soviet bank.

Sulo Muldia has told the other members of the Supervision Council UBB is freezing the deposits and current accounts of state-managed enterprises to put pressure on the Estonian Bank and the Estonian Government because the release of the UBB assets by Vneshekonombank is a matter of interstate relations.

The Union Baltic Bank won formal registration in 1990. Its authorized capital makes some 10 million kronas, equivalent to less than 0.8 million U.S. dollars, and its balance equalled 503 million kronas, or some 40 million U.S. dollars, last month.

A full-fledged subsidiary of the Estonian Bank, Rohja-Eesti Aktsiapank [REAP], is facing the same problems. It used to be an Estonia-based subsidiary of Vneshekonombank, owing to which its substantial deposits with Vneshekonombank were also frozen.

It was announced Friday that Moscow had frozen 76 million dollars on the UBB and REAP accounts. The two banks owe their clients 152 million kronas (about 12 million U.S. dollars). There are problems with bank payments and week-long delays with the remitting of bank orders.

Experts of the Union of Estonian Banks feel the 152 million kronas make up approximately one third of all bank assets on Estonian territory.

Cost of Living Increases 7.7 Percent in October

OW0711031392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Estonia's Department of Statistics, the consumer prices index increased by 7.7% in the month of October.

The amount each member of a statistically average family in the republic spent on products rose by 6.8%, and on services, by 11.3%. Prices on foodstuffs increased by only 1% in October, but manufactured goods became 14% more expensive.

In comparison with October of last year, prices increased by an average of 13.38 times their former levels.

Russians in Narva Celebrate Socialist Revolution

OW0811195692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1547 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The public of the city of Narva in Estonia's North-East staged a rally at the local cultural center on Saturday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 1917 socialist revolution in Russia. The meeting gathered several hundred people. Its organizers included the local union of Russian citizens, Narva's trade union center and the council of war and labor veterans.

As BF [BALTFAX] learned from Yuriy Mishin, chairman of Narva's union of Russian citizens, speakers at the meeting expressed concern about "the future of Russia which is going through hard times".

Those present honoured with a minute of silence the memory of those who had died in ethnic conflicts in the territory of the former USSR.

The same day in another city in the North-East of Estonia, Sillamae, some 2 thousand people gathered for a meeting to mark the anniversary of the socialist revolution in Russia.

Narva and Sillamae are populated mostly by Russian-speakers.

Latvia

Minister on Baltic Council, Yeltsin News Conference

LD0611202392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Yesterday in Vilnius there was a session of the Baltic Council. The Latvian delegation returned from it late in the evening, but this morning one of the members of the Latvian delegation, Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis, was pleased to give an interview to Latvian radio and talk about what was decided at the sitting of the Baltic Council.

[Begin Jundzis recording] At the Baltic Council session—at which Mr. Landsbergis, Estonia's newly elected President Mr. Meri, and our Supreme Council Chairman Mr. Gorbunovs took part—these issues [not further identified] were very thoroughly analyzed. All day was devoted to these issues alone, and I won't deny that in fact the conclusion of this talk was quite unequivocal: that it is a policy of maneuver by Russia; that this policy is threatening us, of course, with dire consequences, and especially if we do not appropriately evaluate this order from Russian President Yeltsin, if we do not react sharply enough...[changes thought] Although it must be said that during this meeting, too, some contrary thoughts were expressed. For example, the view was also expressed that, perhaps, it is quite the contrary; we don't need to react sharply, too sharply, to this order of Yeltsin's, because it could create perhaps sanctions from the Russian side. As they say, don't annoy the Big Bear!

Well, I'd say that to a certain extent this was heard from the Lithuanian side. This upset us a little. Perhaps in one sense this is connected to the fact that Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Landsbergis had a telephone conversation beforehand with Mr. Yeltsin. In this conversation, it seemed to emerge that this order is not a political act, that in essence it changes little, and the deadline for withdrawing the troops remains as before. Well, obviously this is perhaps connected to that telephone conversation, to some extent.

During these discussions the question also arose of whether this issue ought to be raised with the United Nations; at what level it should be examined; and whether it should be dealt with by the UN Security Council or General Assembly. This question was in fact discussed seriously enough and views of the most diverse nature were expressed. But now, as you know, as a result, this statement was issued by the three countries jointly, and it has been sent to all countries of the United Nations and also to the secretary general of the United Nations, the esteemed Mr. Butrus-Ghali. The message requests that special attention be devoted to the situation in the Baltic region, which is very dangerous because of the order adopted by the president of Russia.

On 5 November, on the very same day as the session of the Baltic Council took place, Russian President Yeltsin called a news conference in Moscow precisely about the issue connected with the curtailment of the troop withdrawal from the Baltic countries. At this press conference, Mr. Yeltsin explained Russia's policy in this sphere. Here too, as is evident from the report on this press conference, the emphasis was put on how Russia adopted this order on curtailing the withdrawal of troops, because social conditions have not been arranged for the troops and officers being withdrawn; that they have not been provided with homes, with appropriate places to serve; therefore, the halting of the troop withdrawal has occurred. It is emphasized, to believe this press conference, that this decision by the president is not a political step.

It must be said in the end—this is perhaps the most important thing and of course also undeniably the most interesting aspect—that at this news conference the idea, or the promise, was heard from the president that the deadlines for the troop withdrawal remain as before. So, in the case of Lithuania, that has been mentioned as the middle of 1993—that is, next year. In fact, one must then

conclude that this policy is to a very large extent actually one of maneuvering. [end recording]

You have heard the account by Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis of yesterday's session of the Baltic Council in Vilnius and the news conference in Moscow by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Gorbunovs on Baltic Council

OW0711042492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1828 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Latvian Parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs told journalists Friday that the Baltic Council's session which closed Thursday showed that all of the three Baltic republics agree on the main political issues. For example, he noted their negative reaction to Russian president's decree suspending the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics which prompted the emergency session of the Baltic Council.

Gorbunovs also said that he had received a letter from Boris Yeltsin in which he expressed readiness to discuss all litigious questions with the Latvian leadership and optimism regarding prospects for further cooperation.

In this connection Gorbunovs expressed regret that he could not indicate the time of possible meeting, "because both sides have accumulated too many unresolved important questions and thus are unprepared for successful negotiations". For Russia it is the problem of citizenship and protection of social rights of the military and their families in Latvia, for Latvia it is the status of the Russian army stationed in the republic and the terms of its withdrawal, Gorbunovs noted.

Gorbunovs Views Yeltsin Letter on Troop Withdrawal

LD0811044892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] [Supreme Council Chairman] Anatolijs Gorbunovs on Friday afternoon received an official letter from Boris Yeltsin, which he read briefly at a news conference:

[Begin Gorbunovs recording] The essence is the following: Russia without any ambiguity asserts her wish to withdraw Russian troops from Latvia. But we want to secure the normal functioning of these troops while they are being withdrawn, to secure social and legal protection for soldiers, pensioners, and members of their families. Unfortunately, this has not been done yet, and we are forced, therefore, to resort to the curtailment [of the troop withdrawal] for some time. An agreement on the troop withdrawal will have to be concluded while they are stationed on Latvian territory for the time being. Russia is ready to discuss all these issues with the Latvian side and views optimistically its future relations with Latvia, but at the same time notes that the rights of Russian-speaking people—it is mentioned here—in Latvia will be the focus of Russia's attention, and Russia will in the future defend these interests and will turn with these issues to all social and political institutions of the world. [end recording]

Briefly commenting on this letter, Mr. Gorbunovs referred to it as being rather strange because, according to him, one could think from reading it that there had not been any order by Boris Yeltsin before that.

Politician Cites Clinton Response to Letter

OW0711170492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1633 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armands Malins, chairman of the National Democratic Party of Latvia, told BALTFAX that Bill Clinton, the newly-elected President of the USA, had promised to instruct his staff to investigate the human rights problem in Latvia.

Malins said Clinton had replied to a letter from the National Democratic Party expressing support for his political position.

Privatization of State Enterprises To Begin

OW0711025192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1726 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Government has passed a resolution which will, beginning November 18, transform all state enterprises not yet included on the privatization list into state joint stock enterprises with 25% of the stock reserved for sale to the employees of these enterprises in exchange for privatization certificates. This was reported Thursday [5 November] at a meeting between leaders of industrial enterprises and Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis.

Nonindigenous Residents Fear Cheating

OW0711025292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1726 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The non-indigenous residents in Latvia are worried about the prospects of being cheated in the republic's privatization process.

According to a law passed by the Latvian Supreme Council on privatization certificates, the number of checks a person receives will depend on the number of years he or she has lived in the republic. Latvian citizens will receive 15 extra certificates, while mere residents will have 5 certificates subtracted from their allotted number.

Years spent serving in the USSR army, the KGB, or working on party committees of the Soviet and Latvian Communist Parties will not count toward the total number of years spent residing in the republic. Among those who will not receive any privatization certificates are persons who moved to Latvia after reaching pension age, and those who have not worked more than 5 years in the republic.

According to preliminary evaluations, citizens will thus be granted 88% of all certificates; the remaining 12% will be allotted to so-called "permanent residents," who comprise more that 40% of the population.

The value of each certificate is equal to the price of a half a square meter of living space, which averages at 5000-6000 rubles.

Woes in Industrial Sector Reported

LD0711140892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The slump in the industrial enterprises continues. This was stated by journalist Aivars Tiltins. Virtually all sections of the Rigas Radio Rupnica have stopped working. The only products currently for export are manufactured. The REZ industrial association has switched from a four-day workweek to a three-day one. Compared with the third quarter of the year, the amount of production at the Alfa enterprise has decreased two-fold, and 2,000 employees out of 6,000 have been fired. Arnis Senins, manager of the enterprise, blames the leadership of the bank for this catastrophic situation. Employees of the Alfa enterprise have not yet been paid for their work in August. A strike committee has already been set up at the enterprise.

Paramilitary Unit 'Zemessardze' Kills 7 in 1992

OW0811195892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1548 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Seven people have been killed and another 34 wounded this year as a result of actions launched by the paramilitary unit "Zemessardze", said the Latvian prosecutor's office. Members of the unit used arms on 54 occasions.

Miervaldis Gailitis, prosecutor's office criminologist, told the daily "Diena" that, when resorting to arms, "Zemessardze" members often violated their own rules. For instance, they used arms against women and minors. So far only one member of "Zemessardze" has been convicted for having abused power by the use of arms. Many similar cases are under investigation.

Besides, said M.Gailitis, arms get lost and even used by members of "Zemessardze" to commit crimes.

According to Latvia's Deputy Prosecutor General Jazeps Ancans, "Zemessardze" has done a lot of good, but the rash use of arms is inadmissible".

Godmanis Promises Help on Winter Energy Resources

OW0711031692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, at a selective meeting held Friday with leaders of regional (self-governing) organs of power, promised that certain regions will be sold additional fuel from state reserves. This will be done in order to heat apartment buildings, schools, day care centers, and other similar establishments in the regions.

Until now the heat has not been turned on in several Latvian regions, since this summer local powers did not stock up on fuel needed for the winter. This sparked a campaign from residents protesting against the self-governing leaderships. In order to keep tensions from further escalating, the self-governing powers appealed to the government for assistance.

Lithuania

Report on Signing of Constitution, Landsbergis Speech

LD0711111292

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1000 GMT on 6 November, in a live relay from the Supreme Council, broadcasts a 20-minute report on the ceremony of signing the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the law on the Constitution's coming into force.

Correspondent Algirdas Usas says in his introduction that the event is attended by the heads of the Lithuanian state and government, by members of the Supreme Council Presidium, by deputies of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, and ministers and high-ranking representatives of the clergy. The heads of diplomatic missions are present too, he says, adding that the event is also attended by many Lithuanian and foreign journalists.

The ceremony begins with an unnamed speaker inviting Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis to sign the Constitution and the law. After doing so, Landsbergis makes a speech which is followed paragraph by paragraph by a translation into English. Landsbergis says in his speech:

"Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests who have gathered here. The Republic of Lithuania, which is arising after 50 years of calamities, again has its own Constitution. This is our fundamental law based on the constitutional

traditions of Lithuanian statehood and the international conventions of rights and freedoms. The Constitution was adopted at the referendum of the Lithuanian people on 25 October and has just been signed in your presence.

"A cornerstone has been laid for the foundations of our state, the restoration of which was far from easy. The first stage of the restoration of the state and of social changes has been completed. The second stage is starting. It will be based on and protected by this Constitution.

"The Constitution is an agreement on the manner and order a society chooses to live and on the type of state it desires which will protect people, their life, and their property. The Constitution is also a guarantee against chaos in the state, a guarantee to people that the state will not become alien to them or turn against them.

"The path to these better guarantees has not been easy since 11 March 1990 when, late in the evening, the Supreme Council adopted a provisional basic law aware of the fact that it was imperfect and needing amendments. In the fall of the same year, disregarding the threats that we would soon be forced to our knees economically and broken spiritually, we began working on the principles of a new Constitution. We proved that we would not allow ourselves to be forced to our knees and broken. On 9 February 1991, with tears after the Vilnius massacre not yet dry, at the plebiscite of all Lithuania we adopted the first and the main statement of the new Constitution that the Lithuanian state is an independent and democratic republic.

"It took another year and a half of patient work, heated arguments, even battles in order to share our joy now that we have a completed Constitution, universally adopted by the citizens. I am thinking now about a group of deputies from various factions, a group of the final coordination of the draft constitution which, disregarding internal and other difficulties, was determined to overcome them in the name of the common aim of society and the state. Almost all of us in this group came to this parliament two and a half years ago under the banner of the Sajudis or supported by it. Virtually all of us came together and we participated in a very active manner in the preparation of the Constitution although we were already more and more divided into factions and groups competing among each other and even entering into conflicts.

"But finally, the task of preparing the Constitution—even recently, in the period which was rather conflicting—has again brought us together for the common effort. Here, in this house, there is still much to be accomplished, but we have already completed this work.

"Lithuania is at present halfway to the stabilization of the economy and the reduction of internal tensions, to a state when we will be able to say more boldly that the danger to independence is really receding. There will be many calamities, difficulties, and doubts on this path but we already have the constitution and it will be a guarantee of greater stability and independent life of the state."

Landsbergis concludes his speech by saying:

"I thank all who have contributed to the preparation of this document so that at last, on 25 (?October), the Lithuanian nation was able to adopt the constitution.

"Now, basing myself on Article 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, I proclaim the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the law of the Republic of Lithuania on the procedure of the coming into force of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, which were adopted at the referendum on 25 October 1992 and came into force on 2 November 1992.

"I thank all who took part in this solemn act and ask the secretary of the Supreme Council, Mr. Liudvikas Sabutis, to take into his disposition the special copy of the signed Constitution and to ensure its protection".

Landsbergis on Upcoming Legislative Elections

LD0911015192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2210 GMT 8 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 9 Nov—"Continuing elections and the rather uncertain future that these elections are leading us to"—this is how Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis defined the topic of his television address on Sunday evening. The head of the Lithuanian parliament pointed out that to achieve Lithuania's independence, "unity and effort are necessary" but that this is not sufficient to achieve economic change. "What awaits us now? What will change in Lithuania if the regime essentially changes," Landsbergis asked. He answered his question with new questions in which could be clearly discerned the intention of sowing mistrust in the political rivals that the voters prefer: "Will the system of defense of the land, defense of the borders, which has already been created, be destroyed?" "Will our embassies be closed?" "Will the content of the talks with Russia be altered?" "Will the Russian Army stay in Lithuania?" It was against the background of these and similar questions that the Supreme Council leader called on the residents in the second round of elections to the Sejm, to be held in exactly one week, not to miss the chance to "achieve a certain balance."

Prime Minister on Election Results

LD0811092492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Some foreign countries regard the first round of the elections as a backward step, Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala said during a meeting on 7 November with residents of Silute. In his opinion, in the first round of the elections two categories of peopole voted for the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party

[DLP]. The first group believed, the prime minister said, that the party had more competent people with ideas on how to cope with the Lithuanian economy. The second category believed that when the DLP had been elected, Moscow would reduce the price of oil sold to Lithuania.

However, they both were mistaken, said Aleksandras Abisala. Nobody will sell cheaper energy resources to Lithuania.

Baltic Council Urges Unconditional Russian Pullout

OW0711040892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 6 Nov 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Baltic Council at its conference in Vilnius Thursday called on the Russian Government to complete the withdrawal of its troops from the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania without any delay not later than the summer of 1993. The heads of the three Baltic countries voiced their opposition to Russia's attempts to continue its presence on their territories after that time. They expressed hope that as a UN Security Council member, the Russian Federation will abstain from any actions incompatible with the objectives of the UN and leading to an escalation of tension and instability in the Baltic region and Northern Europe.

Vytautas Landsbergis, Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Lennart Meri have addressed their appeal in that regard to the heads of the CSCE member states, the UN, NATO and EC secretary generals, the chairmen of the European Parliament and Commission of European Communities, and the president of the North Atlantic Assembly.

The participants of the Baltic Council have expressed their serious concern over the decision by the Russian Government to suspend the withdrawal of the Russian troops from their territories. They emphasized that the troops withdrawal should not be associated with any political or socioeconomic commitments by any of the parties, moreover with economic relations among them. Therefore, the Baltic Council is declining Russia's attempts to relate the withdrawal of the Russian troops to the alleged human rights violations in Latvia and Estonia.

The Baltic Council members argue that participation of third parties and international organizations in the process of talks and in observing over the implementation of the agreements after they have been reached would expedite the settlement of the issues associated with the Russian troops withdrawal.

Border Troops Chief Welcomes Russian Move

OW0811022092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1635 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chief of the Lithuanian Frontier Protection Service Colonel Pranas Dragunaitis welcomed the Russian Parliament's decision to grant the Russian-Baltic border a state status.

He told the newspaper TIESA that from now on Russia and the Baltic states will jointly detain trespassers and pass them to each other.

He also said that a unit of Lithuanian border-guards which will work on the 12 border posts of the 303-kilometer-long border with Russia are undergoing training. The protection of the sea border has not been discussed yet, he noted.

On the Russian side, no major changes have occurred, he said. The border between the Kaliningrad region and Lithuania is protected by militia and road inspection officers. Border guards patrol the frontier in only one district.